



SDGs DIGEST

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A DECADE OF ACTION: POSITIONING IsDB GROUP TO MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE 2030 AGENDA



Editorial Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on SDGs



Welcome to our 9th issue of the SDGs Digest, the voice of the SDGs Community of Practice at the IsDB Group. This digest is a free platform for development practitioners (inside and outside IsDB) to express their professional views and share their experiences on matters relevant to the SDGs. In this issue, we are pleased to have a wide range of contributions from Management within the group such as the VP-Country Programs, CEO-ITFC, DG-IRTI and several other distinguished colleagues. We are also grateful

and delighted to have interesting and thought-provoking articles on challenges and opportunities from dignitaries from outside the IsDB group, such as Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President- the World Bank, Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Secretary General- D8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and others. The diversity of topics and sources is essential for us at the SDGs community of practice.

The world has reasserted its commitment to the SDGs at the highest political level during the SDGs Summit held in conjunction with the UN General Assembly last month. The outcome of the summit was a declaration for a decade of action, aiming at accelerating progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Needless to say, after four years of the adoption of the Agenda, results have been a mixed bag at best and certainly not satisfactory for a good number of developing countries. It is now upon governments, private sector, MDBs and all actors in the development arena to demonstrate how they are gearing up their programs and more importantly how they are concretely contributing to progress.

The commitment of IsDB group has been articulated in the President's 5-year program (P5P) and his book 'The Road to the SDGs'. All programs and projects are now addressing their relevance to the SDGs in one way or another. However, the burden on us is not only to discuss how to position ourselves for the decade of action, but also to collectively as an institution demonstrate results and achieve substantial and meaningful impact in making progress towards achieving the SDGs and uplifting people in our Member Countries... We should seek, and we shall find, insha'Allah!

HOW 'SUSTAINABLE' ARE THE SDGs?

HOW IMPORTANT ARE YOUTH IN ACHIEVING THE SDGs?

THE STATE OF THE SDGs IN OIC COUNTRIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A CONVERSATION WITH UN DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

ENHANCING NATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

IN HARMONY WITH NATURE, ISLAMIC FINANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of IsDB Group

CONTENTS

COVER STORY - 8TH OPEN DIALOGUE

A Decade of Action: Positioning IsDB Group to Meaningfully Achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 03

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

UN Deputy Chief Drums up Support for Fragile Countries with Cross-Border Challenges 09

ARTICLES

How Important are Youth in Achieving The SDGs?
Mansur Muhtar, VP, Country Programs, IsDB 04

The State of The SDGs In OIC Countries: Challenges and Opportunities
Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President, World Bank Group 05

Tackling the Obstacles to Achieve The SDGs
Hani Sonbal, CEO, ITFC 06

Trade in Services for SDGs: Challenges and Opportunities
Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Secretary-General, D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation 07

In Harmony with Nature, Islamic Finance and Sustainable Development
Sami Al-Suwailem, Acting DG, IRTI 08

How 'Sustainable' are the SDGs?
Jan Serves, Former UNESCO Chair for Communications and Sustainable Social Change 10

Enhancing National Ecosystems for South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Achieve Agenda 2030
Ahmed Faruk Diken, Sr. Technical Cooperation Coordinator 11

Launching of Geo-Mapping Platform for SDGs
Altaf Abdul Gaffar, Lead Operations Portfolio Management 17

Sustainable Procurement
Husham Merghani, Senior Project Procurement Specialist Training and Capacity Development Project Procurement Unit 18

The Saudi Project for Utilization of Hady & Adahi: An SDGs Compliant Project
Azhari Gasim Ahmed, Lead Economist & Resource Mobilization Specialist, ISFD 18

The First IsDB Resilience Report in Member Countries (MCs)
Abdimajid M Abdullahi, Manager, Human Development Division, Resilience and Social Development Department 20

SDG16: Mapping Global Peace, Justice and Institutions Where Do We Stand?
Syed Abdur Rahman, ERIL 21

Agricultural Trade and Food Security: How Agricultural Trade Policies can Contribute to SDGs
Sabri Er, Agricultural Markets & Trade Specialist Agriculture Infrastructure Division, Economic and Social Infrastructure Department 22

IsDB and Government of Uzbekistan Joint Health Sector Performance Review
Ammar Abdo Ahmed, Task Team Lead: Senior Global Health Specialist 23

Mainstreaming SDG 6 In IsDB MCs!
Papa Abdoulaye SY, Global Lead Urban Development Social Infrastructure Global Practice 24

Thinking Outside the Box: Unlocking Energy Access Finance Through Crowdfunding
Bandar Alhweish, Senior Global Energy Specialist Economic and Social Infrastructure Department Global Practices 26

69MN Teachers Needed for SDG4
Zubair Junjuna, Founder of ZNotes - Final Year Degree in Mathematics at UCL London, UK 26

Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Fighting Common Threats by Enhancing Sub-Regional Cooperation and Partnership
Ali Fallahi, Country Economist, Country Strategy & Market Integration Division, Regional Hub Indonesia 27

COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Turkey's Progress in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals
Saleh Jelassi, Manager, Regional Hub Turkey 12

IsDB Contribution in Implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia
Ibrahim Ali Shoukry, Manager, Regional Hub Indonesia 13

Implementing the 2030 Agenda While Changing the Government Structure: Lessons from Turkey's 2nd VNR - Oussema Trigui, Young Professional 14

"Leaving No One Behind" How IsDB Articles of Agreements Predate SDGs in Promoting Social Inclusion for Muslim Communities in Non-Member Countries
Abdirashid Warsame, Senior Country Manager for Non-Member Countries 15

SDGs and Zakah Infrastructure in Non-Member Countries: Special Focus on India
KMI Sharjeel Ahmad 16

NEWS

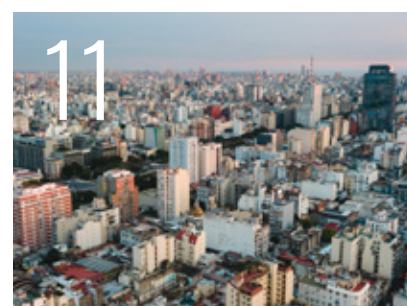
New IsDB Publication Highlights Member Countries' Performance in Achieving SDGs 17

IsDB Launches Flagship Publication on Developing National Ecosystems to Achieve SDGs 19

EVENTS

Pictures from the Event on "Developing National Ecosystems for South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Achieve Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development" 28

HLPF 2019: The participation of the IsDB Special Envoy in the HLPF at the UN.. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPECDC) and Africa Peer Reviewing Mechanism (APRM)



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A DECADE OF ACTION: POSITIONING ISDB GROUP TO MEANINGFULLY ACHIEVE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Positioning the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to meaningfully achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development was the subject of the 8th Open Dialogue on SDGs organized by the bank's Community of Practice (CoP) on SDGs. The Open Dialogue moderated by the Special Envoy to the President of IsDB on SDGs, Dr. Rami Ahmad critically looked at how IsDB can position itself to help Member Countries achieve the Global Goals in a meaningful manner.

The 8th Dialogue which took place on 15th September 2019 following the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on SDGs in New York presented the key contribution of IsDB to HLPF. Dr. Rami Ahmad who represented the bank at the HLPF dwelt on the role of IsDB in promoting South-South Cooperation, the need for countries of the North to respect the local needs of countries of the South and ensure that development is not imposed from top to bottom.

The 8th Dialogue on SDGs benefited from contributions from the President of IsDB Dr. Bandar Hajjar, DGs, Directors, Division Managers and several professional staff.

"SDGs are part of the P5P. All activities in the bank should be aligned with the SDGs. Islamic Finance is a tool to finance the SDGs. We called for the increase in the capital of the bank to achieve the SDGs," said Dr. Bandar Hajjar, during the dialogue.

In his intervention, the Director General Country Relations and Services, Dr. Walid Abdulwahab stated that as an MDB, we are mandated to deal with all development issues, it is therefore difficult to identify a single SDG and focus on it. He added that IsDB will not impose any of the SDGs, rather, the bank will consult and understand the priorities of Member Countries.

SDGs 8 and 9 are critical in helping IsDB Member Countries to achieve the SDGs in the words of Ahmad AlKhodary, Director, Strategy Department.

But the Acting Director of IRTI, Dr. Sami Al-Suwailem had a different perspective on the debate. In his words: "Our approach to achieving sustainable development is not sustainable. We debate about how to eradicate hunger without understanding its causes. We need to engage universities to understand how these problems came about."

For IsDB to position itself meaningfully in achieving the 2030 Agenda, it must take one major step according to Dr. Azhari Qasim, an economist with the poverty alleviation arm of the bank, ISFD; that is by integrating the SDGs in the Annual Work Programme of the bank.

One of the highlights of the 8th Dialogue were the successes recorded towards the implementation of the SDGs. This point was brought out by Syed Hussain Quadri, Manager Country Strategy. He stated that IsDB had recorded many successes, but we need to focus more on implementation.

"If IsDB is to achieve the 2030 Agenda meaningfully, we have to ask how to use Islamic finance as a comparative advantage," stated Dr. Ima Kashim of Human Development Division.

While doing this, the role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as an enabler for achieving the Global Goals Should not be forgotten according to Dr. Solomon Nwaka, Director, STI Department.

During the dialogue, a new intranet site on SDGs (<http://sdg.isdb.org>) produced in partnership with Knowledge Management and Institutional Learning Division for internal use by staff was presented. The dialogue ended with a presentation by Dr. Altaf Gaffar who shared the new platform developed by the bank which mapped all projects according to the SDGs.



HOW IMPORTANT ARE YOUTH IN ACHIEVING THE SDGs?



Mansur Muhtar,
VP, Country Programs, IsDB

I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house was on fire; because it is." These profound words of warning did not come from a world leader, a development professional or a senior diplomat. They were uttered by a teenager, Greta Thunberg, a young Swedish environmental activist.

Today, she is leading and inspiring millions to demand stronger and firmer action on climate change through her activism. Her activism has catalyzed global action from all quarters spurring policy changes, financial commitments, and greater community awareness towards reducing global warming. Millions rallied to her calls in 2019, with at least two massive multi-cities climate action strikes coordinated by students taking place around the globe. They promise to spur action to tackle perhaps the biggest challenge faced by the humanity today.

Greta is now a strong candidate for 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. All this at the age of 16. She is not alone.

Earlier, Malala Yousafzai, a teenage Pakistani activist and the youngest ever Noble Prize laureate at the age of 17 gained global recognition for her advocacy for children and female education. Her initiative, "Malala Fund" has invested millions to support girl's education in most hard to reach localities. Her grand vision of "seeing every girl in school in my lifetime" is representative of the high inspirations held by our youth.

Youth today are not only the object of development concern. They are essential actors in helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. As

the advancement in digital technology opens opportunities for greater access to information, ability to engage in public debates, and enhanced ability to spur collective action, youth now have greater resources at their behest to contribute to development agenda and change. They are also more exposed and aware of issues affecting their communities and planet and hence more mature in the discourse they undertake. Today, the "youth resource", defined by their innovative perspective, latent talent, resilience, zeal and passion on top of their human capital, is indispensable to tackle most development challenges to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, the same youthfulness could turn into a vulnerability if not channeled properly. Today the global youth unemployment rate at 13% is three times higher than the adult unemployment rate. In several countries they are marginalized, unengaged and under-represented. Youth poverty is a major cause of social unrest and radicalization. Estimates suggest that nearly 90% of the global youth between the ages of 15 and 29 years live in poor and very poor countries. Furthermore, at least one-third of all young people in the world live in fragile and conflict affected states. For young girls, the situation is even more perilous.

The challenge is more profound for IsDB Member countries, where youth population is rising along with the inequality they experience in various spheres. Available data suggests that average youth unemployment rate in OIC countries remained consistently above 16%, well above the world or non-OIC developing countries average. Despite being entrepreneurial, they have difficulty in access to finance, restricted access to markets, and lack of business incubation to support their activities. Further, majority of the youth living in fragile countries are in OIC member states. According to OIC projections, nearly one-third of the global youth population will be living in OIC countries by 2050. Nearly 10 to 12 million jobs need to be created annually in our member countries to absorb the youth entrants into the labor markets.

The ability of IsDB member countries to harness the youth potential would depend

on investing in youth engagement, their human capital formation and engaging them in decent jobs. If our member countries political, economic and social development process is unable to engage the youth, this resource could very well turn into a bane and we would fall far short of achieving the SDGs.

The global development community has realized it well as 65 out of the 169 SDG targets reference young people explicitly or implicitly, with a focus on empowerment, participation and/ or wellbeing. There are 20 youth-specific targets spread over six key SDGs. Now it's time for countries and their development partners to turn these targets into actions.

I am glad that at IsDB we have synchronized our policies and projects to put youth development and engagement at the heart of our development model. The President's vision for the Bank's new operating model puts youth as our key 'developer' partners that are at the center of planning, design, implementation and monitoring of our development interventions.

The Bank has also recently approved its first ever youth development strategy, which adopts a holistic and integrated approach to addressing youth development and engagement challenges. The strategy envisions to ensure that the youth population of IsDB member countries is empowered to unlock their potential to make significant contribution to the development of their communities. Our strategy focuses on triple-E challenges of education, economic empowerment, and engagement. I believe that IsDB is uniquely positioned to accomplish this, given its convening power, its strategic partnerships, and its understanding of individual country contexts. And I am sure, that with the support of our partners and member countries, we will.

If the world has to succeed in achieving the SDGs and leave no one behind in the process, we must seek active, substantive and inclusive engagement of young women and men from diverse backgrounds in global, national, and community planning, implementation and monitoring. As Greta Thunberg reminds us, the time is now!

THE STATE OF THE SDGs IN OIC COUNTRIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Mahmoud Mohieldin¹
Senior Vice President, World Bank Group

Four years ago, 193 countries agreed on the transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which included targets for inclusive growth, social and human development, environment and climate change, and governance, among others. Now, for the first time since their launch, global leaders will review global performance on the 17 SDGs at the United Nations General Assembly this September.

What they will likely conclude is that—despite the initial momentum to improve the progress on achieving the SDGs—the world is largely off-track. Member states of the Organizational of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also reflect this reality. The drive and commitment appear to be there, since 42 OIC member states have presented their SDG Voluntary National Reviews at the High-Level Political Forum since 2016. However, OIC countries lag behind on several key rankings.

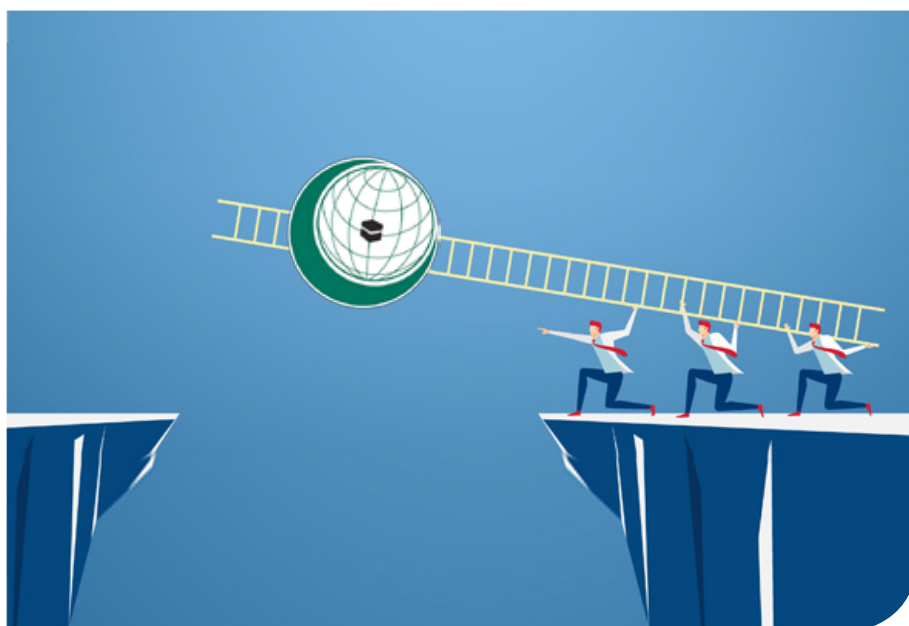
For instance, most OIC countries are not performing well in the SDG Index, the Human Capital Index, and the Human Development Index. As presented at a recent seminar at Durham Business School on Islamic finance, OIC countries need to do better on three essential areas of work to improve their performance: developing better data systems, fostering innovative finance, and enhancing effective implementation through localization.

First, improving performance on data can help them better understand synergies between the SDGs. In addition, the absence of accessible and good quality data will hinder progress toward achieving the SDGs. So-called “big data” is essential for analytics and new industries, enhancing collaborations in

development. For example, for SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), patterns in global postal traffic can provide indicators on economic growth, remittances, trade, and GDP. For SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), data from GPS devices can be used for traffic control and to improve public transport.

Second, with slowing economic growth, OIC countries must mobilize all sources of finance and increase their complementarity to enhance investment for inclusive growth. Islamic finance, which has been growing in recent years, could enhance financial inclusion and intermediation, and contribute to financial stability and development. However, the global share of Islamic Finance within financial services is still relatively small, even in Muslim countries, and its contributions to development are well below its potential. As demonstrated in my paper with Habib Ahmed and others, to enhance the contribution of Islamic finance to achieving the 2030 Agenda, OIC countries need to focus on financial stability, financial inclusion, reducing vulnerability, social and environmental activities, and infrastructure finance. Islamic finance, because its ethical framework, requires that each financial transaction is fully backed by value and asset or contributes financing for a particular cause—making an ideal instrument for reaching the SDGs.

Finally, on the implementation front, localizing the SDGs helps reduce the cost of implementation, staffing, and management throughout all implementation stages. In addition, localization ensures sustainability; greater innovation and effectiveness; increased respect for diversity, culture, traditions; and less waste and duplication. This approach would also lead to greater inclusion, accountability, and acceptance by the communities served, since they will play a role in their own development.



¹The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of the World Bank, the Executive Directors of the World Bank or the governments they represent.

TACKLING THE OBSTACLES TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs



Hani Salem Sonbol, CEO, ITFC

In setting the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the global community has identified two main challenges on the road: How can we reduce the financing gap? And how can we produce reliable data to guide our interventions? The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation, with its core values of advancing trade and improving lives, is contributing to tackle both issues.

Mobilizing resources where they are most needed

To reach the trillions needed to achieve the SDGs, mobilizing the private sector is crucial.

ITFC works with both private and public partner institutions to close the global trade finance gap and mobilize the resources needed with the objective to expand intra-trade among member countries and to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth for member countries. For every US\$ 5 approved by ITFC, US\$ 4 are mobilized from external resources. Since its creation, in 2008, ITFC approved US\$45.6 billion in trade financing, towards sectors crucial to the member country's economic growth and prosperity. Over seventy per cent of ITFC's trade finance was oriented towards the energy sector, thereby supporting member countries efforts to provide reliable energy access to their people and industries. Besides, a total of US\$ 5.6 billion of financing were approved, since 2008, for the food and agriculture sector, supporting the income of over 600 000 farmers in crucial value chains (groundnuts, cotton).

It must be highlighted that around forty per cent of ITFC total financing is directed



Figure 1: ITFC Development Impact Framework

towards the Least Developed Countries, representing US\$ 17.8 billion since 2008. In 2016, ITFC introduced an impact-weighted indicator, as a guide to direct resources to where they are most needed, based on the Human Development Index. In 2018, the average Human Development Index of countries supported by ITFC was 0.59, well below the average of 0.68 of developing countries. It reflects ITFC's continued commitment towards serving first those who are furthest behind.

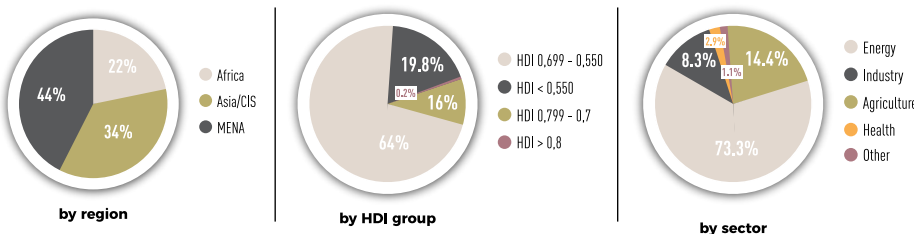
Collecting reliable data on our impact

The adoption of the SDGs has increased the demand for data to demonstrate how ITFC operations are impacting sustainable development. When data is lacking or unreliable, it undermines our capacity to plan and make informed decisions. ITFC has implemented measures to strengthen data collection, management and dissemination, to capture evidence and to inform decision making.

A first step was to identify the right indicators to measure ITFC contribution. Therefore, in 2016, ITFC adopted a Development Impact framework mapping ITFC strategy and interventions with the SDGs according to six development themes: inclusive growth; private sector development; technology, skills and education; sustainability; delivery effectiveness; portfolio management. These themes, further divided into sub-themes, were chosen to capture how effectively the Corporation is contributing towards the attainment of global goals. The Development Impact Framework has been further enhanced in 2019 and now links 54 performance indicators related to ITFC operations to 18 of the 169 SDG targets and to 9 of the 17 goals (see Figure 1).

A second step was the inclusion of the SDGs into each stage of the operation cycle. At pre-appraisal, ITFC uses a quantitative model, based on the Development Impact Framework, to assign a score and assess the operations alignment and potential contribution to the SDGs. Every year a sample of completed operations are also evaluated, using best practices set by the evaluation community, to measure direct and indirect effects of ITFC operations toward SDGs, thus promoting a culture of learning and accountability within the institution. Both, evaluations and self-assessment tools filled by the clients, serve as a building block to the Annual Development Effectiveness Report (ADER).

ITFC overall portfolio



TRADE IN SERVICES FOR SDGs: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari
Secretary-General
D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

One of the persistent challenges that the Global South faces is the smaller portion developing countries claim out of international trade, in particular services trade. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopts a holistic approach and treats trade as a facilitator to reach all SDGs, especially inclusive growth, job creation and poverty reduction. Services trade, a vibrant segment of global trade with USD 5.3 trillion in volume¹, is expected to more than double and reach USD 12.4 trillion in 2030². In the face of accelerating digital transformation, services are further expected to become more tradable, yielding an employment and production boom. However, with developed nations perpetually claiming the lion's share, the challenges persist for the developing countries of the Global South.

In year 2017, top three exporters namely the USA, UK and Germany claimed 27% of the total services exports, slightly higher than 156 developing countries combined, excluding China and India. D-8 countries managed to claim a mere 2.8%. This discrepancy among the developed and developing countries, which is posited to diverge even further in the near future is a major bottleneck for our countries to fully capitalize on their potential, depriving them of an important tool to reach SDGs.

The major reason for this drawback is the nature of services that developing countries, and in particular D-8 members specialize in. D-8 countries have a competitive edge in the export of travel services i.e. tourism,³ yet they lag behind in the export of high-value added

services such as ICT, R&D, IPR royalties and financial services, running trade deficits in each one of them. A successful example of emancipating from the limited scope of tourism is presented by India, who effectively tapped on its highly educated workforce and became a major exporter of ICT services and business outsourcing. Another such example is China, who managed to become the 5th biggest exporter of global services under the leading hand of the government.

The policy recommendations stemming from these success stories are numerous, first one being the prioritization of trade in services in national agenda. Developing nations should attach importance to scaling-up services as much as they do with trade in goods. In doing so, they should align their education system with the requirements of the 21st century, with a view to increase manufacturing and ICT services. In addition to that, they should review their existing stock of trade agreements

and devise optimal strategies to integrate this vital component.

As D-8 Secretariat, we are working relentlessly to assist our Member States in their economic endeavours, and trade in services is no exception. KOMEPS FinTech, a Malaysia based fintech company, is working with us to initiate a card specific to the D-8 countries that will reduce financial intermediation from third parties and increase the financial services trade among D-8 Member States. We are partnering with IsDB to empower smallholder farmers as to increase value added in agriculture services. We are connecting major airports of the Member States to develop an aviation network that will boost trade in services not only in the form of tourism but also in manufacturing services. In all our efforts we aim at empowering our Member States to become key actors of the global economy, and inspire the Global South which to us is "one big continent".

Services Export by Category

Country	Balance in value in 2017	Exported value in 2017	Imported value in 2017	Ranking
United States of America	242.8	780.9	538.1	1
United Kingdom	135.7	350.7	214.9	2
Spain	62.8	139.1	76.3	3
China	33.7	38.3	4.6	4
India	30.0	184.0	154.0	5
Thailand	29.8	75.7	45.8	6
Hong Kong	26.5	103.7	77.2	7
Luxembourg	26.0	102.3	76.3	8
Poland	21.0	59.2	38.2	9
Turkey	19.9	44.0	24.1	10
Egypt	2.6	20.0	17.4	38
Pakistan	-4.1	5.7	9.9	120
Malaysia	-5.4	36.8	42.1	123
Bangladesh	-5.4	3.9	9.3	124
Iran, Islamic Republic of	-6.6	10.1	16.7	127
Indonesia	-7.9	24.7	32.5	128
Nigeria	-13.2	5.0	18.2	135

Source: ITC Trade Map

Services Trade Balance (2017)

	WORLD EXPORTS (USD bn)	D-8 Aggregate (USD bn)	D-8 Share (%)	WORLD RANKING		
				Rank #1	Rank #2	Rank #3
Service: 1 - Manufacturing services on physical inputs	92.9	3.0	3.2	China	France	Netherlands
Service: 2 - Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	86.0	0.9	1.0	USA	Germany	Singapore
Service: 3 - Transport	924.5	34.9	3.8	USA	Germany	France
Service: 4 - Travel	1302.2	64.4	4.9	USA	Spain	Thailand
Service: 5 - Construction	100.5	2.9	2.9	China	Japan	Korea
Service: 6 - Insurance and pension services	124.0	2.0	1.6	UK	USA	Ireland
Service: 7 - Financial services	458.9	2.5	0.5	USA	UK	Luxembourg
Service: 8 - Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	380.2	0.3	0.1	USA	Netherlands	Japan
Service: 9 - Telecommunications, computer, and information services	525.4	6.4	1.2	Ireland	India	USA
Service: 10 - Other business services	1174.6	14.3	1.2	USA	UK	Germany
Service: 11 - Personal, cultural, and recreational services	45.8	2.3	5.1	UK	Malta	France
Service: 12 - Government goods and services n.i.e.	68.6	6.2	9.1	USA	Japan	Germany

Source: ITC Trade Map

¹ ITC Trade Map, 2017 figures

² HSBC Unlocking the GrowthPotential of Services Trade- Oxford Economics

³ ITC Trade Map, Secretariat calculations

IN HARMONY WITH NATURE, ISLAMIC FINANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Sami Al-Suwailem,
Acting DG, IRTI



one can make something out of nothing, except, of course, for the Almighty. No one else can do that.

I'm sure the REC reminds you of something. Something like, well, interest-based lending. You lend 100 and you are guaranteed to get back 100 plus interest. This means that Riba is inconsistent with the laws of nature.

How about investment? We invest 100 and get back more than 100? Well, it is not guaranteed. Investment involves external risks, which means the system is "open" to the real economy. With external risks come external sources of energy. These external sources will supply the additional profits (in return for the value created by the project). Riba, in contrast, is an "isolated" system: the lender is contractually immune from any external risks. The contract, therefore, does not acknowledge external sources of energy. Without such exposure, the lender cannot earn more than what it starts with.

Investment (and all Islamic modes of finance) are open systems; that is, they are integrated with the real economy. Riba is not. Conservation of energy dictates that, in an isolated system, total energy must be constant. Riba, therefore, is not in harmony with nature.

What does that mean? It means that an interest-based system is not sustainable. Riba allows debt to grow forever, which is not feasible. Sooner or later, the books must be balanced. That is why an interest-based system is prone to bubbles and crashes, the most recent of which was the Global Financial Crisis.

The only way debt can grow forever is if the economy can grow forever. And the only way this could happen is if we have infinite resources. But our resources are finite. How could finite resources generate infinite growth?

The conclusion? Perpetual growth is a myth and not a reality. Sustainable development is the proper objective. We want the economy to progress in a sustainable manner. This requires, among other things, a financing system that is built from the ground up in harmony with the laws of nature. This is what Islamic finance is all about.

Suppose you receive a proposal of a "Revolutionary Electric Car" (REC). The proposal claims that it invented a new energy technology such that, once the REC's battery is charged, it will never need to recharge again. The motion of the REC is sufficient to recharge the battery in full. A one-time-charge will make the REC able to move for the rest of its life. How about that?

This must be a fantastic idea, you might say. Let us hire a consultant to assess the feasibility of the project!

Guess what? You don't need a consultant. From your high-school science, you should know that the REC is physically impossible. The REC proposal is 100% fraud.

"But why?", one might ask. "Don't be closed-minded! Let us be creative and imaginative!"

We certainly should be creative; but we should understand how the world works, or else, we are destined to be disappointed. And then, as a result, we will close our minds forever.

So why is the REC impossible?

Because nature respects its laws. The first of these laws is: You can never get something out of nothing. It is called the First Law of Thermodynamics, or the Principle of Conservation of Energy. The Principle states that, in an isolated system, total energy must be constant. Which means, unless you allow the system to interact with the external world, you can never get more than what you already have in the system.

The problem with the REC proposal is that it promises to produce more energy than it starts with, without an external

supply of energy. Suppose the battery when charged holds 100 units of energy (whatever these units are). And suppose that this is enough for the car to travel 1 km. In normal situations, the battery should be depleted by the end of the trip. But the REC by the end of the trip will have 100 units in its battery. By its motion, the proposal claims, it is able to generate another 100 units of energy. For each unit the REC consumes in motion, it is able to generate 1 unit back. The REC, therefore, starts with 100 and ends up with 100, and on top of that, it is able to travel 1 km. This motion requires 100 units of energy, as we assumed. Hence, out of the 100 units we start with, the REC is able to produce 200 units of energy: 100 in motion and 100 to recharge the battery.

But the universe we live in will never permit this kind of thing. The energy books of the REC are not balanced. No

Perpetual growth is a myth and not a reality. Sustainable development is the proper objective. We want the economy to progress in a sustainable manner. This requires, among other things, a financing system that is built from the ground up in harmony with the laws of nature. This is what Islamic finance is all about.

UN DEPUTY CHIEF DRUMS UP SUPPORT FOR FRAGILE COUNTRIES WITH CROSS-BORDER CHALLENGES



Following the successful visit of the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed to Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in June 2019, she called for stronger collaboration between the two institutions in addressing the development challenges faced by fragile countries that face cross-border challenges. Ms. Mohammed made the call during an exclusive interview with *SDGs Digest*, where she urged MDBs and UN agencies to prioritize the local needs of countries in the effort to implement the SDGs. Enjoy:

SDGs Digest: During the Conversation with IsDB Group Staff, you said we need to communicate the SDGs in a language people can understand, what do you mean?

Amina Mohammed: Any framework that has been negotiated at an international level needs to be localized and each one of the 193 countries that we have, they have a different concept of how they articulate development in their countries giving their priorities, needs and aspirations. So it is very important for us to localize the people's understanding, that they are not just 17 goals, but how in fact you would interpret them there, what the narrative would be for development and do it in a way that people can own the agenda.

SDGs Digest: You had a good interaction with members of IsDB management and staff, how can UN and IsDB work together for the implementation of the SDGs?

Amina Mohammed: From the beginning, we have been doing a good job working together, and I think the IsDB has a particular niche with the countries that they serve and I think that is where we need to look for in strengthening our collaboration on the SDGs; fragile countries, difficult to reach populations and how to scale that up. Our current engagement with UNDP and UNICEF is good example, but we can do more, looking at the climate agenda for the Sahel where we see countries that have cross-border related issues which require different focus and different approach. So, my discussions here have been very fruitful, I have enjoyed the discussion with the wider group of staff who really helped to inform how we better ought to respond to some of the needs and share some of the challenges we have.

SDGs Digest: You said during the discussion that many people are being lifted out of poverty around the world, and many others are going into poverty, isn't that scary?

Amina Mohammed: It is very scary; the fact of the matter is that you can't get lifted out of poverty and still go hungry. Nutrition is a big issue particularly for children and women. It is exacerbated a lot by some of the cross-border issues we see with conflicts, with climate change, with migration, and I think these are challenges that we need to approach in a different way. We have been working country by country and sometimes regional programmes, but often the cross-border conflicts and challenges we need to address better.

SDGs Digest: One issue that kept coming up on the SDGs is financing, how can the challenges of financing the SDGs be addressed?

Amina Mohammed: I think there are two parts to this. First is acknowledging that there is a different narrative that sustainable development talks about inclusive economies, so supporting and accompanying a country where an economy itself will be responsible for revenues that will deliver on services; health, education, water and sanitation. And finance; there is a huge gap, and these gaps that we need to fill must be addressed by a collective domestic resources, they are not sufficient, we need to see foreign direct investments and financial system that is much more amenable to unlocking those resources.

SDGs Digest: The year 2030 is around the clock and in your presentation, you mentioned that we are getting off track, how can we get back on track?

Amina Mohammed: Recognizing that we are off track, but there is huge engagement, willingness and ownership of the agenda, but that in fact, what we need to do is to scale-up the actions and investments that we make is an acknowledgement that we have a decade to do that, and what we intend to do is to have that call to action, and to galvanize the kind of partnerships we have such as with Islamic Development Bank and move forward at the country level and regional level with urgency.

SDGs Digest: The UN is undergoing some reforms; how do these reforms make an impact to the people at the grassroots level?

Amina Mohammed: Our intention is to get closer to where we need results, and the capacity to support countries and accompany them to take the approach where countries' priorities drive the support that we give them; that we recognize there will be gaps and that at the core of what we do is about people's rights. So, I think here, our reforms are just about that, getting the right set of expertise to respond to the needs and priorities of the country;

SDGs Digest: What is your message to multilateral development banks, UN agencies and all those engaged in the implementation of the SDGs?

Amina Mohammed: We have an incredible framework, what we need to do is to consolidate our partnerships and collaborations, leverage on the best that we have on our networks and means of implementation to get the job done and to do it with urgency.

HOW 'SUSTAINABLE' ARE THE SDGs?



Jan Servaes
Former UNESCO Chair for Communications
and Sustainable Social Change

Jan Vandemoortele (2018: 1), the co-architect of the Millennium Development Goals, who was the Director of the Poverty Group at UNDP in 2001-2005, concludes that "respectable progress was made towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) between 2000 and 2015". The challenge that remains, he contends, is two-fold: "environmental sustainability and high inequality".

However, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be reached by 2030, dodge these challenges because the relevant targets lack precision and ambition. The Agenda 2030 is not universal in scope because the few targets that are verifiable—those that contain conceptual clarity, numerical outcomes and specific deadlines—apply primarily to developing countries. For instance, the omission of targets for overweight and breastfeeding exemplifies the reluctance of developed countries to commit themselves to specific, quantitative and time-bound targets.

Most SDG targets that are verifiable are actually not dissimilar from the MDGs. They clearly constitute a difficult intergovernmental compromise, made extra arduous by the deepening North-South divide, a return of East-West tensions, and a resurging sense of nationalism among several countries. To a large extent, the context of weak multilateralism explains why the SDGs are not fit for purpose to address the dual challenge of environmental sustainability and high inequality.

Vandemoortele (2018: 12) proposes two vital steps to help realize the transformative potential of the SDGs: "At the national level, each country must select from among the SDG items those that are most relevant to the local context. ... At the global level, the important step is to choose fitting indicators to help fix several of the flawed targets. ... It seems that governments are not ready to accept indicators that could reveal politically sensitive dimensions of reality".

This observation applies not only to countries in the South, also to those in the North. In the South, serious questions are recently raised regarding rising population trends threatening the SDGs in Asia and Africa (Deen, 2019). In the North, a detailed analysis finds that no European capital city or large metropolitan area has fully achieved the SDGs. Nordic European cities – Oslo, Stockholm and Helsinki – are closest to the SDG targets but still face significant challenges in achieving one or several SDGs. Overall, cities in Europe perform best on SDG 3 (Health and Well-Being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). By contrast, performance is lowest on SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Further efforts are needed to achieve zero net CO2 emissions or very close to zero net emissions by 2030 (Lafortune et al, 2019).

Therefore, the four questions we raised in Servaes (2017: 164) regarding the future of the SDGs, seem to be still relevant today:

- First, how can we bring together the right stakeholders at the right time in the right place?
- Second, how do we make difficult trade-offs?
- Third, how do we build in accountability and transparency for action?

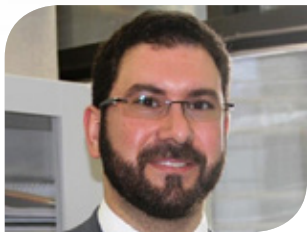
"At the national level, each country must select from among the SDG items those that are most relevant to the local context. ... At the global level, the important step is to choose fitting indicators to help fix several of the flawed targets. ... It seems that governments are not ready to accept indicators that could reveal politically sensitive dimensions of reality".

- Fourth, how to organize this in a participatory and democratic way?

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ENHANCING NATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE AGENDA 2030



Ahmed Faruk Diken
Sr. Technical Cooperation Coordinator

Developing countries, commonly grouped as the Global South, have increased the depth and breadth of their cooperation based on solidarity, shared values, and common needs and interests through South-South Cooperation (SSC). Traditional donors have taken note of how SSC has emerged as one of the effective mechanisms for solving development challenges and are increasingly supporting SSC through a mechanism called Triangular Cooperation. Thus, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) became an important modality of international cooperation for development that contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The increasing complexity and sophistication as well as the substantial scale of SSTrC call for improved and effective institutional arrangements. The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), based on its experiences in both field and analytical work in SSTrC and through in-depth discussions and exploration, together with its member countries and development partners, has identified the main pillars of an effective national institutional framework—or a “national ecosystem”—for SSTrC.

These pillars are identified as: (i) political will; (ii) a national strategy for SSTrC; (iii) a national body that acts as the national

focal point for SSTrC interventions; (iv) information bases that enable countries to map their national capabilities and development solutions that can be shared with others while also identifying issues that can be addressed through SSTrC; (iv) connected actors that coordinate their SSTrC efforts and activities in order to harmonize their interventions as well as amplify the effect of their work; (v) national financing mechanisms that provide the necessary resources for countries to engage in SSTrC regionally and globally; and (vi) performance management systems that allow countries to assess how well they are doing in their SSTrC engagements and find ways to continuously improve.

The establishment of national ecosystems for SSTrC at the country level can be considered as a bottom-up and progressive approach, rather than a top-down methodology that would entail waiting for the regional or international architecture of SSTrC to emerge. Once countries have their own strong institutional frameworks, improved architecture for SSTrC at the regional and international levels would continuously evolve and improve.

One of the undisputed advantages of supporting member countries establish or strengthen their national ecosystems for SSTrC is that the depth and breadth of cooperation in sharing perspectives and experiences in economic development would deepen and improve, not only through increased inflow of SSTrC (beneficiaries), but also from the outflow (providers) of such sharing of expertise.

The stronger cooperation among member countries supported by the right national ecosystems for SSTrC can lead countries to strengthen their cooperation through more cohesive and coordinated efforts. By further aligning with Agenda 2030, these efforts can be further guided to support the achievement of SDGs, maximizing the gains in sustainable development for all countries involved.

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), based on its experiences in both field and analytical work in SSTrC and through in-depth discussions and exploration, together with its member countries, has identified the main pillars of an effective national institutional framework—or a “national ecosystem”—for SSTrC.

In order to contribute to the discussion on the importance of national ecosystems for SSTrC, the IsDB and the South Centre partnered to formulate a paper that offers an overview of the currently existing national institutional arrangements set up by developing countries for SSTrC and



highlights the importance of strong national ecosystems for successful engagement in and contribution to SSTrC.

This paper takes into consideration the experiences of the countries of the South, as well as the experiences of the IsDB and the South Centre in their capacities as multilateral development institutions and think tanks addressing development concerns of their respective member countries. The paper aims to identify the good practices and lessons learned from the experiences of developing countries that could be used for strengthening national ecosystems for SSTrC.

The paper, in flip-book format, may be accessed through:

<https://books.isdb.org/view/473263/>

For further information about this paper, please contact the Reverse Linkage team by emailing: reldiv@isdb.org.

The pillars of the SSTrC National Ecosystem



TURKEY'S PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Saleh Jelassi
Manager, Regional Hub Turkey

1. In light of the second Voluntary National Review submitted in July 2019, Turkey has made significant progress along all three dimensions of sustainable development namely, **eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and addressing needs of vulnerable groups**. Based on a human-centered development approach, Turkey has achieved remarkable progress in providing better quality, broader and more accessible public services, particularly for education and health.

I. Progress in Achieving SDG Targets

2. For achieving targets under SDG 1, Turkey is among the top performers in eradicating poverty. Pro-poor policies in employment, social security, education, health, and housing have significantly contributed to this outcome. For achieving targets under SDG 5, Turkey's Health Transformation Program resulted in increased access to health services, improved physical infrastructure and service quality. Net schooling rates at all levels of education have substantially grown to achieve targets under SDG 4. For SDG 6, nearly the entire population (99%) have access to clean water and sanitation. A significant increase has been achieved and the share of renewable energy resources in electricity generation exceeds 42%. To support SDG 8, the share of R&D expenditure in GDP almost doubled from 2002 to 2017 (0,51% to 0,96 %). As for SDGs 9 and 11, Turkey stands at a very advanced level in terms of urban infrastructure and the service delivery capacity of local administrations. In the recent years Turkey expanded the services provided through e-government applications and the number of users registered for these

services has reached 43 million in 2019.

3. In line with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), Turkey supports the efforts of other developing countries particularly in Africa to achieve the SDGs. Turkey's development assistance from 2014 to 2018 exceeded 38.7 billion USD. The establishment of the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries as a UN entity in Turkey in 2018 marked SDG 17.8 as the first global target achieved.

II. Challenges and Constraints in Achieving SDG Targets

4. However, identifying the challenges that Turkey has faced in ensuring a more solid progress in achieving SDGs could offer invaluable lessons for other developing countries trying to follow suit. The following are some of these challenges:

i. Productivity Stagnation

5. Although Turkey has done well in expanding access to education, labor market distortions are a challenge for even greater progress. This is partially due to lower labor productivity and skills mismatch including for women's greater labor market participation.

ii. Resource Mobilization Constraints

6. Turkey's lower domestic savings are insufficient to finance its investment needs for SDGs. This gap coupled with a lack of depth in capital markets leaves businesses without sufficient access to long term financing thus forcing an over-reliance on bank borrowing that leads to corporate debt buildup.

iii. External Shocks

7. Apart from the global liquidity tightening, the Turkish lira volatility has acted as a major shock resulting in some capital flight and an economic slowdown. Moreover, Turkey's high energy import dependency because of which any fluctuations in the energy prices have a major adverse impact on the trade balance which affects planning for development spending.

iv. Data Generation on SDG Progress

8. Monitoring SDGs at national level requires quality, regularity and priority of indicators and ease of access to

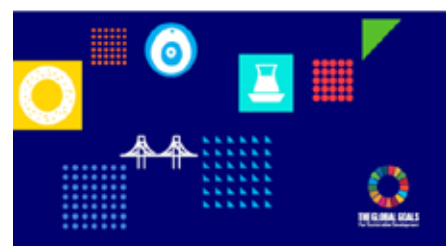
relevant information. While Turkey's set of sustainable development indicators is comprehensive and is renewed in line with SDG indicators, such indicators still fall short of covering all targets.

III. Looking Ahead

9. The above challenges are meticulously addressed under the 11th Development Plan through which Turkey aims to increase its economic resilience by rebalancing the economy away from import dependency to make it more export-oriented, productive and globally competitive. Turkey plans to take steps to improve the quality and effectiveness of services, focus on R&D and innovation to transform manufacturing industry to attain a high value-added production structure.
10. Turkey plans to ensure a marked improvement in the quality of its labor force particularly in R&D through university-industry linkages and improved vocational and technical education which is actively supported by the private sector.
11. In order to encourage private sector investments, Turkey plans to create a level playing field through developing an ecosystem which is supportive of innovation, R&D and financial technologies.



TURKEY'S
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
2ND VNR 2019
"Strong Ground towards Common Goals"



ISDB CONTRIBUTION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs IN INDONESIA



Ibrahim Ali Shoukry
Manager, Regional Hub Indonesia

Following the commitment of the government of Indonesia to pursue the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, IsDB approved a number of projects in the Education, Sanitation and Power sectors in alignment with the SDGs (4,6,7,9,10 and 11) under its 2nd MCPS (2016-2020). These projects are:

1. Power Grid Enhancement Project (\$330 million), contributing to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).
2. National Slum Upgrading Project (\$329.5 m), contributing to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).
3. Development of Trans South-South Java Road Project (\$250 million), contributing to SDGs 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).



4. The Development of Four Higher Education Institutions Project (\$176.6 million), contributing to SDGs 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).

Under the 2nd MCPS (2016 - 2020), the SDGs to be supported by the IsDB Group interventions in Indonesia include: End poverty in all its forms everywhere (matching goal 1); Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (matching goal 4.); Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (matching goal 6); Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (matching goal 7); Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (matching goal 8); Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (matching goal 9); Reduce inequality within and among countries (matching goal 10); Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (matching goal 11); and Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the

global partnership for sustainable development (matching goal 17).

The MCPS envisioned the various interventions to contribute to targets related to 9 SDGs. Of the nine original SDGs listed in the current MCPS, 7 have directly benefitted and will benefit from IsDB Group activities, but all nine goals will have secondary effects from the interventions.

In terms of the project pipeline for the remaining period of the MCPS, based on the level of readiness of the projects and the priorities of the GoI, it is expected that the new pipeline would include potential projects that will address target SDGs plus additional ones like SDG-3 (Good Health and Well-Being). Further, the IsDB RHI is working together with the PPP division to create a PPP pipeline supported by potential resource mobilization initiatives which would position the IsDB as a strategic player in the development financing of Indonesia.

The RHI expects that SDG-17 will have the largest quantum of support (US\$ 1,615 million) from the various group interventions, followed by SDG-6 (US\$ 600 million) which will benefit from the Urban Development interventions and SDG-4 (US\$ 400).



IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA WHILE CHANGING THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: LESSONS FROM TURKEY'S 2ND VNR



Oussema Trigui
Young Professional

Voluntary National Reviews are the tools Member Countries (MCs) use to review at a macro level, achievements and gaps towards reaching the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Achievements do not just include reaching a target threshold for one of the goals, they also include policy, strategy, legislation, practices and projects.

Turkey was one of the first 22 countries to present VNRs in 2016. In this year's HLPF¹, three years later, Turkey presented its 2nd VNR, showing the country's dedication to the common framework of the SDGs and its commitment on a regular review of its achievements and gaps.

This VNR comes after a restructuring process that has deeply modified Turkish government's structure. While it could have hindered adherence to the SDG framework and progress towards achieving the goals, the transformation that followed the entry into force of the presidential system on 9 July 2018, on the contrary, has been used to raise awareness and disseminate the SDG framework in the country's institutions.

VNRs are now prepared by the Strategy and Budget Office, governed directly under



the presidency. At the same time, this office is also responsible for preparing National Development Plans (NDPs), which allows better integration of the SDGs in the preparation of the NDP itself, as it was developed in the 11th Development Plan for 2019-2023, published in the same month of July 2019.

We can extract three major lessons from Turkey's 2nd VNR, namely the importance of ownership and alignment, partnering and mainstreaming, and determination along a governing principal.

Since Turkey has changed its governance structure, strong ownership at the highest political level was essential in order to embed sustainable development in all sectors of intervention. Firstly, each of the 17 SDGs was tasked to a specific ministry, that will act as its responsible institution. With the President of the country endorsing the scheme, all ministries have to report on their assigned SDGs. Secondly, a matching exercise between all 232 SDG indicators and statistics available in the country was carried out, which showed that only 83 indicators were available. Efforts are being made to bridge the gap under the responsibility of Turkstat (National Statistical Office), which also compiles, monitors, and reports on those indicators. This is of utmost importance as it is the key to get sound diagnostics, design efficient interventions, and obtain meaningful evaluations. Thirdly, thematic audits are being conducted on behalf of the Parliament, by the Turkish Supreme Audit Institution. This also ensures ownership of the challenges by elected officials and other centers of power.

Furthermore, Turkey's VNR makes the argument that overnment cannot achieve these goals alone. Engaging all stakeholders is key, "including public and private institutions, local authorities, NGOs, academia, and

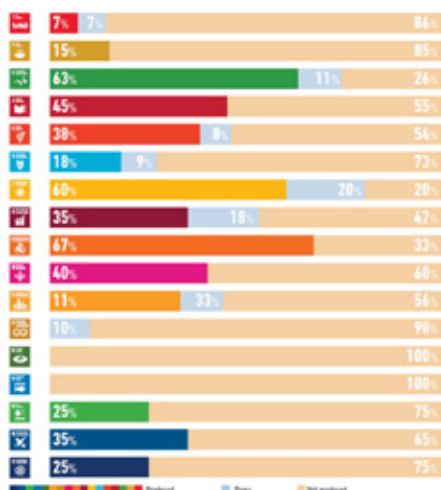
citizens". One initiative is worth mentioning as it opened the doors to contributions in a collaborative and transparent manner: a digital platform. With the help of seven institutions, an online database has been operationalized enabling various stakeholders to share their good practices in achieving the Agenda 2030. Around 400 practices were collected for this VNR, but the aim is to have the database online throughout the years to come, and to collect as many practices as possible, to make sure concrete steps are made towards achieving SDGs.

Adopting the SDGs framework helps countries to have clearly defined targets and commonly agreed direction, but it is not enough. Every country may also select and follow one governing principle that defines a focused area of action. By choosing "leaving no one behind" as its guiding purpose, Turkey has touched upon a very important principle that is dear to us in IsDB as well. Because monitoring indicators at the macro-level never gives you the full picture, so you should make sure that your focus, your initiatives, and your actions do not leave blind-spots behind and that progress reaches everyone in the society. In Turkey, the Government has developed specific initiatives and programs to reach women, children and youth, persons with disabilities and the elderly, and refugees; in order to achieve the Goals with these populations, too.

Having obtained an SDG Index score² of 68.5 (79th country out of 162) in the latest Sustainable Development Report 2019, one can hope that the actions shown in this 2nd VNR will push Turkey, one of the G20 countries, towards greater achievements.

1 High-Level Political Forum, 9-18 July 2019, UN Headquarters in New-York, USA

Distribution of Indicators by SDGs



Resources for pictures:

- https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23862Turkey_VNR_110719.pdf
- https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24420TC_VNR_SUNUM_R4_ENG_PPT_EX_CONVERT.pdf

2 Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2019): Sustainable Development Report 2019: G20 and Large Countries edition. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

“LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND”

HOW ISDB ARTICLES OF AGREEMENTS PREDATE SDGs IN PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES



Abdirashid Warsame
Senior Country Manager for
Non-Member Countries

In many countries around the world, the poorest communities tend to be ethnic and religious minorities, not only in the least developed countries, but also in the most developed countries. The scale of poverty level varies from one country to another.

Strikingly, countries that value and respond to the legitimate development interests of its minority communities have achieved inclusive human development, co-existence and peace. New Zealand, Canada and Australia are case in point, because they recognize the development needs of their minorities and consider them to be an integral part of their development plan.

Seen from that perspective, it is not an overstatement to say that the founding member countries of IsDB were mindful of the notion of “leaving no one behind,” in particular the poor and hard-to-reach Muslim minority communities in non-member countries. This resulted in enshrining their development needs in the first Article of Agreement of IsDB, which states that: “the purpose of IsDB is to foster economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities individually as well as jointly”.

To ensure sustainable flow of resources to the Muslim communities in non-member countries, it was enshrined in Article 22 of IsDB Articles of Agreement which stipulates that “Special Funds may be established by the Bank for assisting the development of Muslim communities in non-member countries”. This demonstrates that the notion of “leaving no one behind” was at the heart of IsDB’s agenda long before the SDGs

were established as the main reference point for development policies built on the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

In a bid to pursue their aspirations of “leaving no one behind”, the IsDB Special Assistance Office (Communities Outreach Program) was established in 1981, anchored in a unique operating model. This model has generated global knowledge on Muslim minority communities, global network, collaboration across global partners in relevant operational areas and integrated multisector solutions to the Muslim communities by customizing the delivery to their country contexts.

Since its inception, 1,728 operations have been financed with total approval of US\$ 852 million of which US\$ 360 million was invested in education sector (SDGs 4), US\$ 35 million in health sector (SDG 3) and the remaining in capacity building programs. With broadened knowledge and partnering more effectively with

community organizations, operations were globally delivered with adaptability, sensitivity and often patience in 84 countries.

At the regional level, 470 projects, amounting to US\$ 122 million were delivered in South East and Pacific Oceania,

292 projects with the amount of US\$ 95 million in Africa, 212 projects with the amount of US\$ 98 million in Europe, and 152 projects with the amount of US \$ 45 million in South and North America.

The program has not only helped Muslim minority communities to be productive citizens in their countries, but also enticed Suriname, Guyana and Mozambique to become IsDB member countries because of the program’s positive contribution to inclusive human development of those countries.

Despite this progress, the challenges the minority communities face remain urgent. Increasingly, unpredictable economic trends, inequality and exclusion are the most pressing challenges facing Muslim minority communities in non-member countries. In this vein, considering the noble objectives of the Program, it is pivotal to keep its merit at the heart of IsDB’s agenda and sustain its previous hard-won development gains and global network while meeting the new

challenges confronting Muslim minority communities such as technologically driven labor market.

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School in India – Hyderabad Institute of Excellence



Lautoka Muslim Primary school in Fiji



Primary school in Singapore

SDGs AND ZAKAH INFRASTRUCTURE IN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES: SPECIAL FOCUS ON INDIA



KMI
Sharjeel Ahmad

The primary mandate of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is enabling "peace and prosperity for people and the planet". The broad strategic goals of the SDG blueprint calls for adopting strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth. Under the Islamic purview, Zakah or the obligatory religious tax, is levied on individuals and institutional incomes that exceed the minimum threshold, or Nisab. While the spiritual objective of Zakah is to purify one's income, the economic goal underlines its significance and role in reducing inequality and spurring economic growth. A closer look at the list of eligible recipients of Zakah relates that it is precisely meant to empower and improve health, education, and the general wellbeing of the people with restricted means. Going by the corollary, Zakah and SDGs share the same institutional objectives – peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

While Zakah is mandated and collected by the state in some Muslim countries, including Saudi Arabia and other Member Countries like Pakistan, Malaysia, and Sudan, it is more of a voluntary overture in other Muslim countries and Non-Member countries like India. India has a peculiar stance in terms of Zakah – although national level institutions like Zakah Foundation of India exists, they neither have the mandate nor the public approval to monitor the collection, distribution, and utilization of Zakah at the regional or national level. The secular political framework of the country also impedes the mandate of any such national level institution. Despite this, Zakah Foundation of India has been involved in numerous "charity and socially beneficial projects".

We do have numerous success stories emanating from institutions like the Zakah Foundation of India; however, the reality remains that the disparity between the haves and have nots has not improved significantly. As apparently a rhetoric as it may seem, the primary reason behind this insignificant improvement is the lack of prioritized focus on the utilization of Zakah funds. For example, most of these institutions adopt the outmoded convention of utilizing the Zakah funds on impulsive stimulus rather than adopting a curated priority investment paradigm. In simple terms, Zakah funds are often seen as a viable and convenient means to fund impulsive necessities of the economically weak, but seldom perceived as investment funds that could empower the have nots and bridge the economic disparity among the Muslim community. The outcome of such an impulsive distribution may provide some temporary respite to the have nots; however, it contributes neither towards the empowerment of the have nots nor towards sustainability.

The promise of sustainability offered by the 17 SDGs is based on the fact that these goals move towards peace and prosperity starting from the highest priority areas at the grassroots levels and moving upwards towards the more global goals. The strategic alignment of the goals underscores how each goal may act as a prerequisite for the next Goal, without which any developmental effort may be devoid of the required sustainability. If Zakah utilization matrix



The promise of sustainability offered by the 17 SDGs is based on the fact that these goals move towards peace and prosperity starting from the highest priority areas at the grassroots levels and moving upwards towards the more global goals.

for Non-Member Countries like India is aligned with the SDGs in the same priority and proportion, it could lead to a significant improvement in reducing the economic disparity and empowering economic growth of the weaker Muslim populace.

Non-Governmental organizations operating at the national level, like Zakah Foundation of India, must realize the significance and role of aligning their investment paradigm with SDGs. Such institutions may hire full-time expert investment professionals and fund managers who may consult and channel the Zakah funds in projects that empower sustainability. Institutions like Zakah Foundation of India can also seek to develop private-NGO partnership paradigms and launch and manage commercially viable projects in the nonconventional SDG-aligned industry sectors like agriculture, water and sanitation, alternate energy, and urban development. Such initiatives will not only directly empower Zakah recipients by offering them sustainable employment in such projects but will also have a strong impact on sustainable utilization and consumption of the Zakah funds.

In summary, there needs to be a complete facelift and overhaul of the way Zakah collection and distribution institutions work in India to ensure Zakah consumption leads to sustainable development and doesn't remain a mere sporadic occurrence that the Muslim community witnesses every Ramadan (this is when majority of the Muslims distribute their Zakah).

LAUNCHING OF GEO-MAPPING PLATFORM FOR SDGs

Data is the “new oil” so goes the saying, and nowhere is it truer than in a multi-lateral institution which aims to improve the lives of billions of people worldwide. However, just like oil, it needs to be extracted, processed and turned in to a useful form before it can be used. To convert vast of amount of valuable project related data held by the Bank into useful information upon which decision can be made requires suitable tools and platforms. The lack of such easily accessible tools has been one of the obstacles for the IsDB to become a truly data driven organization.

To overcome this challenge and to promote a higher level of data literacy within the Bank, the CP Complex in close collaboration with the IMDT, and with the aid of Development Gateway International has launched a new data visualization and geo-mapping platform for the IsDB. This platform, which is available to both internal and external uses, will provide a one-stop analytical gateway to researchers, bank staff and all interested in knowing more about IsDB financed projects and where they are implemented.

The launch of this platform by the CP Complex, is part of its efforts to introduce a more data-driven culture within the Bank. The platform provides a reliable and easily to use tool to access the IsDB’s project financing data. The use of Geo-mapping which enables to visualize the projects based on their location, which gives a spatial representation of the projects.

The platform was developed with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind, with the aim of highlighting the Bank’s contributions. The platform



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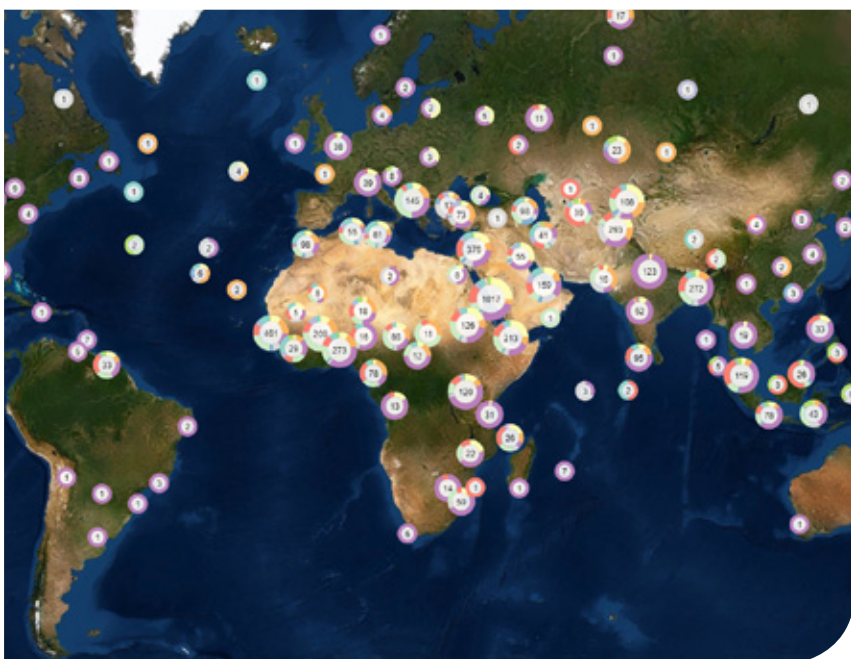
provides an SDG based search function which enables the highlighting of projects based on their contribution towards specific SDGs.

The SDG search function drill downs to the level of development indicators / Core Sector Indicators (CSIs), used at the project level. This linkage enables to easily understand where the Bank’s interventions for a given SDG is located.

This provides a very useful tool for planning the Bank’s future projects and interventions, in line with the SDG agenda.

At the project level all the key information with regards to a project is provided, including all project financials, sector / sub-sector classification and SDG linkage with the planned and delivered results.

The tool provides satellite-based views of project locations, enabling project managers to better understand the geography and terrain on which the project is being implement. We would like to invite all to visit the Geo-mapping site to tryout this tool and its features. We also greatly value any feedback that you may have on it.



News

NEW IsDB PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS MEMBER COUNTRIES' PERFORMANCE IN ACHIEVING SDGs

A new publication produced by the Economic Research and Institutional Learning Department of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) highlights the performance of Member Countries (MCs) on each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The publication titled “Reaching the SDGs: Progress of IsDB Member Countries” will serve as an important document in guiding IsDB in its effort to steer MCs in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Report is also important for MCs in understanding how their countries are performing in changing lives through sustainable development.

The new publication which covers 39 countries among the 57 MCs based on available data, suggests that the achievement of SDGs as a Group among IsDB MCs stands as 56.4% which is slightly lower than the 50% distance to the targets.

An interesting perspective provided by the publication is the commonality among MCs. According to the publication: “The most striking observation is that 29 MCs (out of 39 MCs in which sufficient data is available) are behind in achieving SDG9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.”

The publication stated that Chad, Afghanistan, Niger, Guinea, Iraq, Yemen, Mauritania, Benin, Sierra Leone, Togo, Djibouti and Cameroon have achieved no more than 10% on SDG9. While challenges in achieving the SDGs remains a huge task, none of the IsDB MCs among the 39 studied records less than 40% achievement on the SDGs.

The three most challenging goals in IsDB MCs according to the publication are SDG9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG4 (Quality Education).

“This report highlights that despite some progress, there is still a long way to go if we were to attain the targets of the SDGs. In addition, the disparities among MCs progress and the challenges they face are indicative of the diversity of needs and required responses. Even where MCs face the same challenge, the progress on individual indicators and extent of the challenge vary widely,” says Dr. Mansur Muhtar, Vice President Country Programmes, in the Foreword of the publication.

An announcement will be made for the official presentation of the publication to all staff at IsDB Group.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT



Husham Merghani

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Training and Capacity Development
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IsDB has recently introduced Revised Project Procurement Guidelines whose use is mandatory for all projects approved after 31st March 2019. These Guidelines amend a lot of the principles and concepts contained in the old Guidelines and also adopt new ones. The Revised Guidelines support sustainable development, as they state at the beginning of Chapter 1- when introducing the new core procurement principles: "These principles support Beneficiaries to deliver **sustainable development** with integrity."

The Project Procurement Unit (PPR) has also prepared a set of Guidance Notes (GNs) that accompany the Revised Procurement Guidelines. These GNs explain and clarify some of the concepts in the Revised Guidelines and they illustrate good practice in certain topics. One of the important topics that is covered by a GN is "Sustainable Procurement". By issuing guidance regarding Sustainable Procurement, IsDB is aligning itself with other MDBs who have published similar Guidance Notes as part of the reform of their procurement processes.

Sustainable procurement is a process which incorporates economic, environmental and social considerations in the procurement process. This contrasts with the traditional approach which only considered economics (the lowest responsive bidder). However, incorporating additional considerations in procurement does not mean it will take longer or be more expensive.

The IsDB GN on Sustainable Procurement does not stipulate that Sustainable Procurement is mandatory. The use of sustainable procurement is at the Beneficiary's discretion. However, the GN encourages Beneficiaries to actively consider and apply sustainable procurement, where appropriate.

Why undertake sustainable procurement?

There are many reasons to consider sustainable procurement. They include

the following five key reasons:

1. Financial

Reducing total operating costs by procuring more efficient and sustainable goods, works or services. These goods, works and services develop the market's capacities to deliver sustainable solutions and generate cost savings on a long-term basis by applying life-cycle costing.

2. Risk management

Engaging in the mapping of economic, legal, environmental and social sustainability threats and opportunities and developing approaches to manage them.

3. Commitments and goals

Reflecting the Executing Agency's organizational culture, values, and ethics in accordance with relevant policies. This could include developing sustainable procurement policies that are in harmony with a country's overall strategy; that is, commitments and priorities ought to be clearly stated in the policy and the operational implementation ought to be reflected in procurement practices.

4. Responses to increasing stakeholder expectations

It is important to take account of social responsibility and sustainability issues. Beyond the requirements established by the Bank in its other policies (e.g.: environmental and social), these can be further enhanced by using sustainable procurement approaches.

5. Attractiveness

Performance in terms of social responsibility and sustainability may impact a Beneficiary's or project's image; enhance competition and provide organizations greater competitive advantage. Implementing sustainable procurement may attract other financial investors, boost labor markets, attract the best organizations to bid, and further drive development goals.

Sustainability and the procurement process

The procurement process has been defined as a:

"process that starts with the identification of a need and continues through planning, preparation of specifications/ requirements, budget considerations, selection, contract award, and contract management. It ends on the last day of the warranty period."

How sustainability is considered at each of the stages of this process will be elaborated in the second part of this article.

THE SAUDI PROJECT FOR UTILIZATION OF HADY & ADAHI: AN SDGs COMPLIANT PROJECT



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on Financing for Development, calls for worldwide action from governments, development institutions, the private sector, and civil society to align their strategies, operations and activities with the principles outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda marks a significant shift from traditional development approaches by recognizing the important role that all those who are active in social and economic development have to play in achieving sustainable development for all.

This article demonstrates the compatibility of the Saudi Project for Utilization of Hady & Adahi with the internationally accepted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Project

Established in 1983 by the Saudi government, and managed by the IsDB, the Saudi Project for utilization of Sacrificial Meat, is aimed to serve the increasing demand by pilgrims for Adahi and assure environmental protection of the holy sites.

Cleaning and Sanitation

The project is a typical example of an SDGs-compliant project. Hygiene underpins the delivery of several SDGs. In this project, slaughtering is well-executed to assure optimal hygienic and cleaning standards. An efficient drainage system is provided for liquid waste, as well as immediate removal of solid effluents. To secure cleanliness and efficiency, hoists and overhead rails are used to hygienically transfer the carcasses from the chilling rooms into refrigerated trucks for transport and storage. The



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meat is then frozen, packed with clean and approved materials, and distributed to the rightful beneficiaries in Saudi Arabia and 27 different countries and Muslim communities in Africa and Asia. The number of sacrificial animals of the project during the 1441H (2019) Hajj season was 935,000.

SDGs-compliance

The project offers a concrete example of how to successfully mainstream SDGs compliance into social and business operations. SDG-3.9, for example, focuses on Environmental

Conservation. The project contributes to this goal by carrying out the slaughtering process of hundreds of thousands of sacrificial animals with optimal waste management and minimal pollution to the surrounding environment of pilgrims and residents. It also contributes to achieving access to adequate sanitation and hygiene in carrying out the production process - (SDG-6). SDG-12, focusses on responsible production. The project effectively achieves this goal by enhancing the efficiency of production and delivery of sacrificial meat to the needy.

The project also helps in reducing hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition (SDG-2), which calls for rethinking how we produce, share and consume food. It also contributes to ensuring healthy consumption and promoting wellbeing at all ages (SDG-3). Moreover, it helps in achieving this Goal (Target 3.9) by contributing to the reduction in the number of illnesses from foodborne diseases and microbial contamination.

During the Hajj season 1441H (2019), the project recruited around 40,000



employees working in different fields of management, supervision, slaughtering, veterinary services, Islamic Shari'ah supervision, and shipping and distribution. This contributes to enhancing the income of these employees and reducing poverty among the needy workers (SDG-1).

Thus, this unique project focusses on the creative philosophy of turning pollution and production problems into innovative solutions, and supports the global agenda for Development by being SDGs-compliant across its entire operations.

News

ISDB LAUNCHES FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION ON DEVELOPING NATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE SDGs

26th September 2019, New York, USA:

A flagship publication that would help developing countries to establish national ecosystems has been launched by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The publication entitled "Developing National Ecosystems for South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Achieve Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development," was produced in partnership with the Geneva based South Centre, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and several international cooperation agencies in IsDB Member Countries.

Right from inception 44 years ago, IsDB operates on the principle of solidarity and the bank has provided major leadership among MDBs in promoting South-South Cooperation. In 2014 IsDB established a triangular cooperation programme known as Reverse Linkage which promotes peer-to-peer cooperation through the exchange of knowledge, resources and expertise among Member Countries.

"I couldn't think of a better time to launch this groundbreaking publication than this very moment when world leaders gather at the United Nations to brainstorm and take concrete actions on how to achieve the 2030 agenda. IsDB has always been



on the frontline when it comes to South-South Cooperation," says Dr. Bandar Hajjar, IsDB President. "I am confident that this pioneering publication would help developing countries to establish a framework that will strengthen their effort in transferring technology, knowhow and resources among themselves. IsDB is ready to share its successes with all interested parties on how to use South-South Cooperation to provide solution to development challenges."

According to the publication, national ecosystems as a framework for South-South Cooperation are built on seven key pillars, namely, political will; building national strategies for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC); establishing a national body to facilitate SSTrC; Building information bases; connected actors to bring various stakeholders to exchange views; a financing mechanism to bring resources; and a performance management system.

Through Reverse Linkage, the triangular cooperation mechanism at IsDB, several projects in excess of US\$ 123 million have been implemented.

Through these projects, the IsDB was able to connect 21 Member Countries, all the way from Suriname in the West to Indonesia in the East, to facilitate the exchange of expertise, technology and resources to solve development challenges.

The Bank's field experience in implementing Reverse Linkage interventions has enabled it to identify a typology of national institutional arrangements which collectively make up a national ecosystem that enables countries to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation in an effective manner.

THE FIRST ISDB RESILIENCE REPORT IN MEMBER COUNTRIES (MCs)



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Department

This article aims at highlighting the findings of the first IsDB Resilience Report, first edition, produced by the Human Development Division of Resilience and Development Department in close coordination and support of the different departments and entities of the Bank. The objective of this report is to provide practical recommendations for effective resilience response in Member Countries (MCs) to design interventions, strategies, and programs for building resilience. It will also help other donor partners and MDBs to better understand resilience, for smart investments in what works and efficient programming of these interventions.

The report provides an overview of the critical development challenges posed by manmade and natural disasters in IsDB MCs. The report indicates that more than half of the MCs are affected by increasing fragility. Battling deaths are at the highest levels before the 1990s, reaching almost 94,000 in 2015 alone. Forced migration is at the highest level ever recorded with 19.9 million Internally Displaced. In 2018, Fatalities due to natural disasters exceeded 5,000 which was the highest number since 2010. Natural disasters pose critical development challenges facing MCs.

A consensus is emerging that the solution to the fragility is to identify and promote existing systems of resilience rather than strictly trying to impose solutions from the outside. While partnerships, local ownership, and sustainability have long been recognized as best practice in the field, the practicalities of just how to do it well are not obvious. Given the many trade-offs and sharp variation from one context to another, especially the most difficult cases, all too often, humanitarian and development efforts tend rather to



delay, extend or even escalate crises. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), humanitarian agencies, academics, and other experts are actively working to develop tools, policies, templates, and guidelines, to unlock a new approach to resilience programming that can be harmonized and deployed in a way that will promote human, social, and economic wellbeing across the world.

The report first provides contextual analysis of resilience, with quantitative overview across five dimensions (economy/livelihoods, environment/natural disasters, human security, institutional/infrastructural coping capacity and forced displacement). There is summary of best practices for resilience including prevention, preparedness, emergency response and regenerative development. More specifically, the key dimensions covered by the report are critical for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10. The report stresses the need for the development partners and institutional support for MCs to manage risks and pressures of these critical dimensions to achieve the sustainable development goals.

This is followed by a review of global trends, showing that over the long term, poverty and violence are much reduced, but that around the year 2000, there was a sharp divergence between global improvements overall and stagnation in countries affected by fragility. Further adding to the urgency around untying the knot of fragility and resilience is the fact of rising environmental pressures and unprecedented levels of forced displacement, which are likely to make the challenge of development in the “last mile” even harder to achieve, unless a new approach is adopted.

Furthermore, the report goes beyond traditional and classical analysis on the challenges and causal factors of manmade and natural disasters by bringing out what really works at local, national and regional levels and what it means for the MCs to better manage risks and pressures posed by these challenges. A new approach to resilience requires an understanding of

what works in countries under different circumstances: those with large and small populations, those in conflict, under occupation, those dealing with conflict and localised conflict, those susceptible to natural disasters, upper, middle- and lower-income countries, countries in Africa, middle east, Asia and Europe, those rich in natural resources and those without. Through extensive research and video teleconferences with local experts, nine case studies were undertaken in countries with different social, economic and political contexts: Indonesia, Turkey, Syria, Nigeria, Somalia, Jordan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Palestine. These case studies highlight what works in these countries for lessons learned and recommendations that can be applied more broadly.

The report calls for expanding the understanding of resilience (the Why), particularly how resilience works in different contexts, the difference between social capital and institutional capacity and how it can be leveraged and key tools to help development actors and MCs better informed about spheres of influence, centrality and leverage points. The report stresses the need for investing in resilience (the What) to support MCs manage risks and pressures posed by fragility, conflict and natural disasters. Having understood the systems, tools of resilience and what sectors work, it also provides practical recommendations for increasing financing and introducing tailored smart investments in building resilience to achieve SDGs. After having understood resilience and what kind of investment is needed, it is necessary to focus on programming for resilience (the How) to: (i) better design and implement programs and projects; (ii) make the investments in resilience successful in unpredictable and volatile environment; and (iii) look closely at the dilemma and trade-off that need to be weighed.

Finally, based on the analysis of the report and throughout case studies, five themes are clearly emerging from the report; youth, education, women, water and disaster preparedness, which are critical for building resilience to support MCs to address fragility and achieve the SDGs.

SDG16: MAPPING GLOBAL PEACE, JUSTICE AND INSTITUTIONS WHERE DO WE STAND?



Syed Abdur Rahman, ERIL

Peace, justice and institution, three vital factors of human life and socio-economic domain, put together in SDG#16 that embodies 12 targets and 23 indicators. Goal-16 is set to promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels, the UN explains.

Verily, we all wish and work for peace, saying 'Peace be upon all! Justice must prevail; and Institutions strengthens'. Yet, many regions continue to suffer untold horrors because of armed conflicts, leading to reversals in SDG progress. Achievement is, however, made in regulations to promote public access to justice, and in strengthening institutions, still advances in these areas are uneven. Likewise, human rights and freedom of speech are in danger in many countries, says UNSD Report 2019.

This article attempts to present a few snapshots of the current situation in peace, justice and institutions. In mapping the status of three factors, contents from recent global indices have been synthesized and linkages drawn. What was observed is: peace yet to be restored; justice denied in many countries; and institutions suffer tangible setback.

Global Peace Trends: Even though, global peacefulness improves for the first time in five years, but the world continues to be less peaceful than a decade ago. The average country score improved by -0.09%, with 86 countries improving and 76 recording deteriorations, reports the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2019.

Regional Situation: GPI 2019 observes, 4 of 9 regions improved in peacefulness - Russia and Eurasia, Asia-Pacific, Europe and MENA. Europe maintains as the most peaceful region. MENA remained the least peaceful for the fifth year in a row, while

most of Russia and Eurasia remains less peaceful than the global average. Central America and the Caribbean had the largest regional deterioration.

Country Status: GPI 2019 also witnesses that Iceland remains the most peaceful country, followed by New Zealand, Austria, Portugal, and Denmark. Bhutan recorded tangible improvement in peace while Afghanistan became the least peaceful, replacing Syria, followed by South Sudan, Yemen, and Iraq.

Justice: Washington-based World Justice Project (WJP) updates the Progress in its 2019 Rule of Law Index as follows:

- Eight in 10 children aged 1 to 14 years were subjected to psychological aggression at home in 81 countries. In all but 7 of these countries, half of children experienced violent forms of discipline;
- 73% of children under 5 have had their births registered; the proportion is less than half in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Most of the detected trafficking victims were women and girls (71%), and about 28% were children. Over 90% of victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation or forced labor;
- The proportion of prisoners without being sentenced for a crime remained almost constant in the last decade, from 32% in 2003–2005 to 31% in 2014–2016;
- At least 1,019 human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists have been killed in 61 countries since 2015;
- Freedom-of-information laws and policies have been adopted by 116 countries, with at least 25 countries doing so, over the past 5 years; and
- Since 1998, 116 of 197 countries have established a national human rights institution.

Target 16.3 promises to 'Ensure Equal Access to Justice for All' but the world is not on track to meet this target, says WJP. 1.5 billion people cannot obtain justice; 4.5 billion people are excluded from the opportunities the law provides; and 253 million people live in extreme conditions of injustice.

WJP identifies that justice problems are ubiquitous. Most people do not turn to lawyers and courts for remedy to their justice needs.

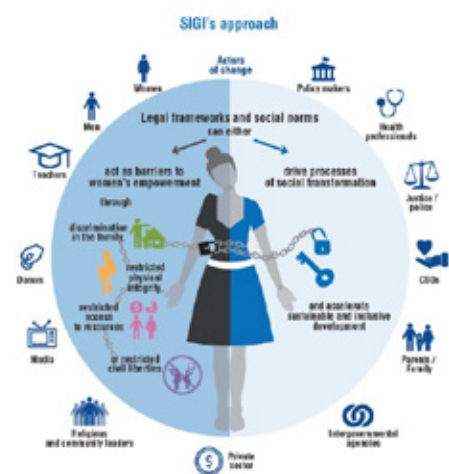
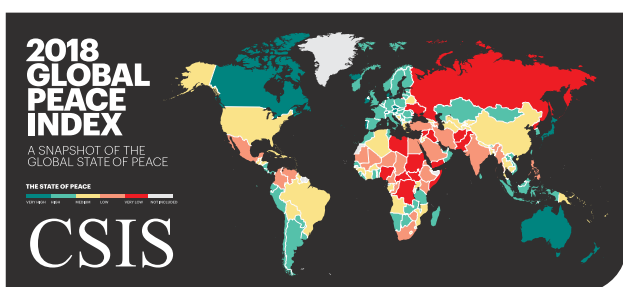
Strong Institutions: With the theme, Transforming Challenges into Opportunities, OECD's SIGI 2019 report, which ranks 120 countries, shows progress in strengthening social frameworks - 15 countries have enacted legislation to criminalize domestic violence; 15



have eliminated legal exceptions that allow girls below 18 to marry; 8 have introduced legal measures to promote gender-balanced representation in elected public offices; and paid maternity leave is now guaranteed in all but two countries. Similarly, policies for gender imbalances are starting to rollback some social discriminatory norms.

SIGI 2019 recommends that governments should take three key actions to accelerate further progress in institutionalizing the justice:

- Translate international conventions into national legal frameworks;
- Implement laws effectively and increase the number of prosecutions and convictions;
- Report publicly and regularly on progress towards gender equality.



Source: UN SC Report 2019; Global Peace Index; World Justice Project; and SIGI 2019 Global Report

AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY: HOW AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SDGs



Sabri Er

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Empirical studies as well as economic history show that countries that have pursued an external development strategy with trade liberalization outperformed closed economies in terms of growth rate, lowering poverty and improvements in other indicators of social progress.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), marking a more aspirational approach to development, outlines 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets. Together, they aim to bring a more holistic approach to goal-based development.

Although there is no specific trade-related SDG, international trade is considered as an important mean of implementation for poverty reduction, agriculture and food security and gender equality by 20 targets scattered in several SDGs particularly in SDG 17 addressing duty-free and quota-free market access for least developed countries.

Agricultural trade contributes to several SDGs with a direct contribution to SDG 2: Zero Hunger. Agricultural trade can provide vital means in ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition.

There are several channels through which trade can influence food security and thus contribute to SDGs. It allows countries to take advantage of differences in land endowments along with heterogeneities agri-ecological conditions. For example; Brazil has almost twenty-five times as much agricultural land per person as Japan. Without trade, food prices would be significantly high for consumers in Japan and devastatingly low for farmers in Brazil. Agricultural trade allows countries with lots of land and suitable climate to supply agricultural products to those whose resources are much more limited, resulting in raising real incomes in both countries.

Trade liberalization can streamline agricultural production, allow improvements in dietary diversity and increase access to food. With trade, consumers can diversify

their diets to incorporate products not produced locally. The quality of consumers' diets in developed countries like Europe is improved significantly by accessing tea, coffee and other tropical fruits.

Price volatility and fluctuation in agricultural food prices can be controlled by trade as well. Price shocks in local or international markets can have severe effects on populations' food security. Likewise, bad harvests result in severe food shortages, high prices and vulnerable people becoming food insecure. Trade allows us to implement basic economic principle; diversification of sources of supply reduces volatility.

Liberalizing trade in agricultural inputs such as seeds or irrigation equipment can be important in helping farmers increase productivity. More importantly, open trade allows flowing new ideas, systems and techniques in agriculture that lead also to improve productivity.

In order to realize and benefit from positive sides of trade, agricultural trade reform is vital for countries. The well-known fact is that distortions in agricultural markets are much higher than distortions in other markets. Therefore, starting from Uruguay round, agriculture has been priority topic on World Trade Organization (WTO) agenda to reduce distortions in trade of agricultural products through regulations of market access, domestic support and export subsidies.

However, trade is not panacea and the links between trade and food security are inherently complex, with several channels of interaction affecting the different dimensions of food security simultaneously.

Figure 1 below depicts a simplified representation of different variables through which trade can affect food security dimensions.

Trade is only one of several factors affecting food security. Domestic production along with import constitutes food availability in a country. Economic growth can generate employment and higher income for households that help significantly to access food.

Well established infrastructure is an essential part in activating trade and businesses. Government revenues are crucial to implement investments such as agricultural research, rural roads, clean water, social safety net, etc. that all support several various aspects of food security. Government also crucial to develop and implement policies and legislation that will affect economic variables shown in the figure.

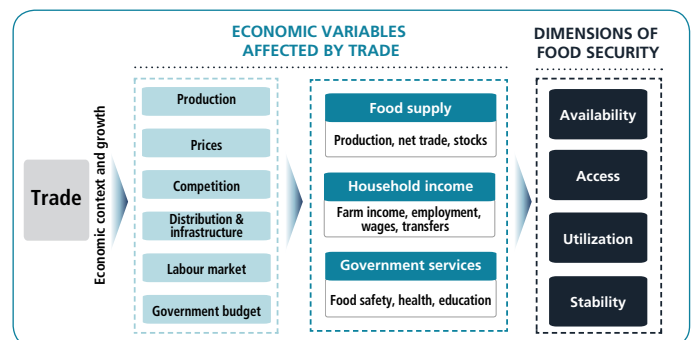
How trade policies will impact the world's ability to achieve targets in SDGs of 8, 10, 14, 17 particularly SDG 2 depends on countries' own trade policies and on how those policies interact with one another. The pros and cons of openness to trade is linked to a large extent not only on the resource endowment and comparative advantages of the country but also on the role of agriculture in the economy.

In summary, based on historical experience and empirical studies, open trade with international community is an essential approach for growth, income generation, and food security. However, the best trade policy or the best WTO framework will not solve food security issue if other crucial factors are not addressed and deemed simultaneously.

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Figure 1. Trade and interaction of food security variables and dimensions



Source: Trade Policy Briefs, FAO.

ISDB AND GOVERNMENT OF UZBEKISTAN JOINT HEALTH SECTOR PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Social Infrastructure Global Practice, Country Programs Complex - August 2019



Ammar Abdo Ahmed
Task Team Lead:
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The Challenge

With its population of more than 30 million, Uzbekistan has implemented significant change and reforms of its health system. There has been significant change in the ways in which health services are provided and accessed since the Soviet era when healthcare was organized under the highly centralized Semashko model, with resources highly concentrated in the hospital sector. While all citizens enjoyed access to health care free at the point of delivery and a wide range of medical services were available for all, the Soviet model of health care contained several structural weaknesses. Facilities were poorly equipped and maintained, and a shortage of medical supplies existed throughout the system.

The Proposed Solution

Recognizing these challenges, the Government of Uzbekistan placed great importance to health sector reform. It began with the reform of primary health care in 1998 through improving health infrastructure under the State Health System Reform Program, training health staff, and conducting new reforms in funding and management to promote innovation. The reforms, especially structural and financial, have been undertaken with the support of International Partners mainly of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) with the aim of improving accessibility, equity, and quality of care.

The Findings

As a result of implemented reforms, the international community gave a positive assessment of the country's achievements in the field of healthcare. The life expectancy of the population increased by 7.3 years - from 66.4 years in 1991 to 73.8 years in 2016. The maternal mortality rate decreased by 3.7 times - from 65.3 (in 1991) to 17.4 (in 2016) per 100 thousand live births, and infant mortality - 3.3 times and amounted to 10.7 cases per 1000 live births in 2016.

The Challenge

The Proposed Solution

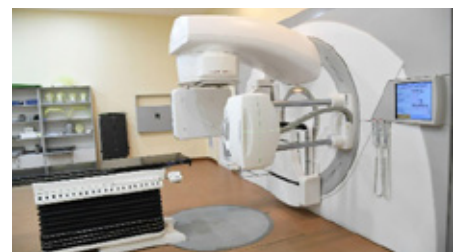
The Findings

The Lessons

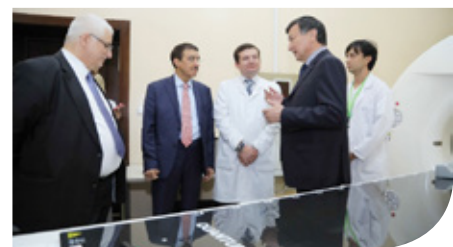
Most of the healthcare reforms were supported by the projects implemented with the financial assistance of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and primarily focused on the modernization medical equipment park of health facilities. However, while supply of equipment gives a boost to the quality of care, it is also essential that the procedures of how equipment is used is addressed alongside equipment deployment. Revision and discussion of the position and role of the project's beneficiaries (health facilities) in context of evidence-based medicine is also a parameter in boosting the ever "moving target" of quality, which requires a continuous discussion about the best practice and clinical practice guidelines under which provided equipment shall be used.

The Lessons

Future interventions to strengthen the healthcare system needs to be implemented with an emphasis not only on equipment, but on a balanced approach, strengthening of facility structural resources, building a strong Health Management Information System (HMIS) at Central and Regional hospital levels for data collection and analysis, staff training and promotion along with change in procedures and processes. That way, investments in equipment, staff training, and facility upgrading can be made to result in more effective healthcare service delivery and boosted health outcomes.



Linear Accelerator, Republican Oncology Center



Visit of His Excellency IsDB Group President to the Republican Oncology Center on September 20, 2018
(From left to right: Mr. Hisham Marouf, IsDB Regional Hub Manager; H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar IsDB Group President; Prof. Tillashaykhov, Director, and doctors)

Five priority areas of Uzbekistan's Development and Strategy for 2017-2021:

- (I) Improving the System of State and Public Construction;
- (II) Ensuring the Rule of Law and Further Reforming the Judicial System;
- (III) Economic Development and Liberalization;
- (IV) Improving the System of Social Protection and Health of Population;
- (V) Security, Interethnic Harmony and Religious Tolerance, Implementation of Balanced and Constructive Foreign Policy.

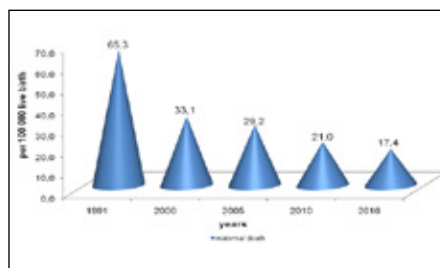


Figure 1. Maternal mortality rate (per 100 000 live births)

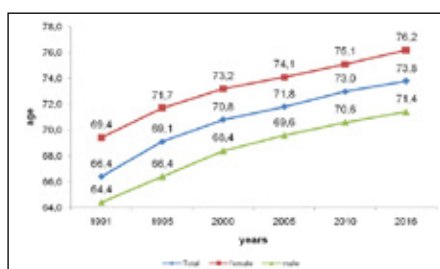


Figure 2. Life expectancy at birth in the Republic of Uzbekistan (years)

Partners	Project field	Amount (\$ million)
Export – Import Bank of Korea	Establishment of Children's Hospital	130.0
KfW – Bank	Modernization of Regional Hospitals	27.0
World Bank	Health Project	76.0
	Health 2 Project	118.09
	Health 3 Project	186.0
Islamic Development Bank	Oncology Service in the Republic of Uzbekistan	37.04
Islamic Development Bank	State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision Centers	17.4
Saudi Fund for Development	Specialized scientific medical centers	20.0

MAINSTREAMING SDG 6 IN ISDB MCs!



Papa Abdoulaye SY
Global Lead Urban Development
Social Infrastructure Global Practice

Unsafe sanitation is a massive problem that is becoming more urgent as our global population increases and trends like water scarcity and urbanization intensify. About 4.5 billion people—more than half the world's population—practice either open defecation or use unsafe sanitation facilities and services¹. To be effective, sanitation must be carefully managed at all stages, from the point that waste is collected and contained to how it is transported and treated. If there are gaps or breaks at any stage, then harmful human waste flows into surface waters and fields where children play, and people of all ages live, eat, drink and bathe².

According to the UN Habitat, in the world one in eight people live in slums. In total, around a billion people live in slum conditions today³. By definition, slums are characterized by the lack of access to water supply and/or improved sanitation. When central or local governments fail to provide to their citizens' most basic needs, people are left with a disorganized mix of services to empty latrine pits and dispose of the waste, often with little regard for cleanliness, either for workers or nearby residents. Without access to any system for removing human waste, almost 100 million urban dwellers have little option but to practice open defecation. The remaining 600 million people rely on toilets that do not fulfil minimum requirements of hygiene, safety or privacy— including dirty and crowded communal toilets, and rudimentary pit or bucket

latrines. Communities near water may use 'hanging' latrines suspended over a river or lake, where human waste drops straight into the water. Streets and common areas quickly become open sewers and rubbish dumps⁴.

Poor sanitation, which is widely accepted as a chief contributor to waterborne diseases, is the cause of more than 1,200 deaths of children under five-years-old per day, more than AIDS, measles, and tuberculosis combined. Inadequate sanitation and hygiene were the cause of more than half a million deaths from diarrhea alone, in 2016⁵.

Advantages of promoting Onsite Sanitation for achieving SDG6

Onsite sanitation (i.e. non-sewered sanitation) is a sanitation system in which excreta and wastewater are collected, stored or treated at the same place where they are generated; common example are pit latrines and septic tanks. The fact that the waste is not transported eliminate the need for installing a sewerage system, a pumping station, a power station or an expensive wastewater treatment plant at the end of the process. It does not require either a high capital expenditure or substantial operational and maintenance expenses. Hence, the onsite sanitation can be a cost effective and very low maintenance option for providing access to sanitation in affordable way especially in developing countries.

Leveraging financing for scaling up Onsite Sanitation

Within the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) member countries, at least 3 out of the 57 are among the world "weakest" countries for urban sanitation⁶. To tackle this issue, the Bank has been resolutely engaged in solving sanitation issues within its member countries and to help them achieving the SDG 6 target 2 (by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations).

The IsDB has financed several sanitation projects promoting the use of onsite sanitation between 2012 and 2018 for a cumulated amount of US\$ 184 million in Indonesia, Bangladesh and in Guinea Conakry. In order to scale up and to help the least developed of its member countries achieving the SDG6, the Bank is using innovative financing. This is the case of the Live and Livelihoods Fund (LLF)⁷.

The LLF is an innovative financing mechanism, combining the traditional project-based modes of a multilateral development bank operating through large-scale interventions, with the considerable buy-down potential of grant-based Donors. It is a global compact, bringing together development partners to unlock US\$ 2.5 billion of financing on concessional terms to lift millions of people out of poverty and save thousands of lives. For instance, the Conakry Sanitation Project in Guinea was financed through LLF for an amount of US\$54 million with 30% grant element. Several other sanitation projects are under reviewed within the Bank for financing through the LLF mechanism.

Using Transformative Sanitation Technologies⁸

Another opportunity that could be leveraged to scale up onsite sanitation is the use of transformative sanitation technologies. Since 2011, the Gates foundation has been working to develop a portfolio of innovative sanitation technologies, such as the reinvented toilet and new kinds of human waste treatment technologies, that give governments and utilities a running start at transformative approaches to an old problem. The Gates Foundation has primarily invested in early R&D—the riskiest phase of a technology innovation process—and the development of international standards, in order to establish a high bar for these innovations, while simultaneously removing barriers for companies and governments that want to be early adopters. These include the reinvented toilet, the omni-processor, and the omni-ingestor.





Using Community Based Sanitation Approach – the Saminas Model

In February 2013, the IsDB approved a financing of US\$ 100 million for a Community Based Sanitation Project in Indonesia called “Sanimas”. The main objective of Sanimas project was to tackle the health issues induced by open defecation and poor sanitation by providing community-based infrastructure for sanitation in 1,800 locations in 46 cities across 13 provinces. Sanimas is using a demand responsive approach i.e. communities are making their commitment and willingness to join the project by signing and accepting its requirements. This approach has been established as a better alternate than centralized sanitation infrastructure, that cannot cope with the geographical nature of Indonesia and the type of population targeted.

The approach of Sanimas Community Based Sanitation

Taking into account the limited awareness of the community about water sanitation and hygiene and their lack of understanding about community driven sanitation technologies, the Project will allow sufficient time for the community empowerment process. Community Facilitators (CFs) will assist local communities to develop their own action plans for sustainable sanitation services and improved hygiene and health environments. The process will start with the establishment of a long list of communities showing their interest to participate. So-called Road Shows, providing information on community-driven sanitation, health and hygiene issues, and procedures and criteria to participate in the Project, will be organized in each city, to inform and register interested districts.

Based on specific selection criteria, districts will be chosen to participate in the project. CFs will inform and train community members to (i) identify issues and needs related to health, hygiene and sanitation, (ii) formulate comprehensive and sustainable sanitation plans with specific investment plans to be financed through government financing, (iii) prepare technical design, (iv) implement civil works, and (v) formulate and implement Operation & Maintenance plans to ensure sustainability of the completed facilities.

In order to ensure that community sanitation facilities constructed under Sanimas will be integrated in the city development plans and linked to the sewerage system, only districts located in cities with an approved City Sanitation Strategy (CSS) will participate in the project. To ensure support from the respective city administrations, local governments will provide a firm letter of conformation documenting their readiness to participate in Sanimas and to make specific contributions to support the community-led sanitation development.

Similarly, in Bangladesh, the IsDB is implementing a Water & Sanitation project in 23 Pourashava with a cumulative target of 1 million people and for an amount of US\$ 90 million out of which US\$ 30 million are dedicated for the construction of sanitation facilities. The immediate outcomes of this project will see the number of people using improved sanitation facility increase from 57% in 2013 to 75% by 2022 and the number of households with access to “regular” solid waste collection services from 55% in 2015 to 90% by 2022.

Finally, in Guinea Conakry, the IsDB is implementing an integrated sanitation project comprising storm water drainage, solid waste management and onsite sanitation for an amount of US\$ 54 million including US\$ 16 of LLF grant in two most populated districts of the capital city. The key results anticipated in the districts of Ratoma and Matoto are as following: (i) 1.7 million inhabitants will be protected against flooding and will benefit from regular collection of solid waste; (ii) sludge treatment will increase from 0% in 2017 to 500m³/day in 2022; (iii) the number of cases of malaria, diarrhea, schistosomiasis, and typhoid will be halved for children under 5 years old; and (vi) several hundred of direct and indirect jobs will be created.

The Way Forward

These are living examples of how non-sewered sanitation can be scaled up for reaching out to the poorest households and giving access to improved sanitation in a sustainable way. Ultimately, all these efforts will help achieving the SDG6 for the IsDB member countries. At the

Reinvented Toilet Expo that took place in Beijing, China in November 2018, Bill Gates talking about all these new opportunities stated, “today, we are on the cusp of a sanitation revolution. It is no longer a question of if we can do it. It’s a question of how quickly this new category of off-grid solutions will scale. We don’t know exactly how long that will take, but we do know it can’t happen fast enough”. In the same vein, during the Transformers summit that took place in Cambridge, UK in December 2018, the President of the IsDB Group, Dr. Bandar M.H. Hajjar, said: “unsustainable cities are burdening the future of our societies, and without definitive commitment to invest in innovative technologies our cities will remain unprepared for the challenges associated with rapid urbanisation”.

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3. UN HABITAT, SLUM ALMANAC 2015 2016. Tracking Improvement in the Lives of Slum Dwellers
4. WATERAID, Overflowing cities The State of the World’s Toilets 2016
5. WHO, “Global Health Observatory Data Repository”, 2016, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.CM1002015WORLD-CH3?lang=en>
6. WATERAID, Overflowing cities The State of the World’s Toilets 2016
7. The Lives and Livelihoods Fund is designed to be a multi-donor effort to scale up concessional support to poor communities in least developed and lower middle-income countries. It will do so through addressing critical needs in health, agriculture and basic infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Initial support to the Facility comes from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (“BMGF”), the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (“ISFD”), the Qatar Fund for Development (“QFFD”), the King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (“KS Relief”), the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (“ADFD”) and the Islamic Development Bank (“IsDB”), and it is open to other donors who are aligned with its goals (BMGF, ISFD, QFFD, KS Relief, ADFD and any other donors are together the “Donors”).
8. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – Transformative Sanitation Technology Portfolio. Reinvented Toilet Expo – December 2018.
9. Mainstreaming Community-Based Sanitation: Lessons Learnt from the SANIMAS Project. Paper for Indowater 2005. Presented by Alfred Lambertus, Consultant WSP-EAP.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: UNLOCKING ENERGY ACCESS FINANCE THROUGH CROWDFUNDING



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According to the International Energy Agency (2019), 840 million people live without electricity out of which 573 million (68%) are in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA). If current policies and population trends continues, more than 600 million people will remain without electricity in 2030 especially in Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia. Energy access represents a massive market opportunity in the energy transition. In 2017 alone, the global off-grid solar sector provided electricity access to about 73 million households, or over 360 million people, thus transforming lives that were previously reliant on kerosene and solid fuels for most of their lighting needs.

The IsDB just designed an innovative intervention model in partnership with a crowdfund platform based in Sweden to achieve this goal. The crowdfund platform,

TRINE, is actively operating in East Africa, West Africa, South Asia and recently in South America. It targets to provide 66 million people with access to clean energy before the end of 2022 and its current portfolio size is nearly EUR 27 million. TRINE is targeting to expand its portfolio to EUR 300 million by 2021 and the IsDB, among other development partners, is eager to contribute towards achieving this ambitious goal. Starting with a pilot project, the IsDB allocated Euro 1 million that will be utilized for three to four projects/campaigns along with the crowd funders. This will support the purchase of about 16,000 Solar Home Systems in IsDB Member Countries (MCs), especially in Sub Saharan Africa, with an implementation period of up to 6 months through TRINE's platform. It aims at attracting more investments from the crowd (up



to 1:3 resource mobilization ratio) and hence further support rural households to obtain modern energy solutions. This pilot project is expected to connect around 50,000 people with electricity and avoid around 14,000 tCO₂ emissions. The financing will be through Murabaha operation with a markup of 7-10% annually, and a repayment period up to 5 years after Gestation Period of up to 6 months.

The UNDP assessed the impacts of several previous campaigns (projects) using UNDP's Climate Action Impact Tool. Through the assessment these campaigns were found to have impact on 10 out of the 17 SDGs: These are SDG 1 - reduction of poverty; SDG 3- good health and wellbeing, SDG 4 -quality education, SDG 5 – gender equality; SDG 7 -enhanced access to affordable and clean energy; SDG 8 - decent work and economic growth; SDG 9 Industry, infrastructure and Innovation, SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, SDG 13 – Climate Action and SDG 17 – partnership for goals. Successful pilot intervention by the IsDB will be determined by the actual attraction of more capital investments from the crowd and the closure of the campaigns in faster pace than those campaigns without such facility. Once proven successful, the IsDB, and most likely other Development Partners, will consider upscaling its contribution in TRINE's platform and will also consider extending such intervention to similar crowdfund platforms serving various sectors and in promising scales.

69MN TEACHERS NEEDED FOR SDG4



Zubair Junjuna
Founder of ZNotes | Final Year Degree
in Mathematics at UCL London, UK

With just 10 more years to go in our mission to achieving the SDGs, it is time to face the cold hard facts and see what the next challenges are. In terms of Goal Number 4 (Inclusive and equitable quality education), a statistic released back in 2016 by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) stated that we needed another 69 million teachers to

provide teaching to an estimated 263 million youth still out of schools globally. In particular, about 65% of these new teachers are needed for secondary school.

Are we getting closer to this number? In many parts of the world, including England, the number of secondary teachers is, in fact, decreasing and their retention in the career is getting worse. But why is that? Well considering teachers are very often underpaid and working overtime, it is not surprising that many leave the teaching industry or become private tutors with higher pay instead.

To explore further, we need to ask whether the role of a teacher has even been defined correctly and in the context of the 21st Century. In this Age of Information, do we need our teachers to be a walking, breathing encyclopedia?

The ability to regurgitate facts is no longer needed with access to the internet and

instead, we need teachers to be the one thing that separates them from a computer; their humanity. Instead of asking them to, yet again, write down facts onto a whiteboard, we need them to do what they are most uniquely qualified to do and be mentors in our educational journey. Instead of being taught in rote, our classrooms should be buzzing hives of Socratic discussions with questions being the primary method of learning.

And in terms of workload? Teachers should no longer have to do repetitive tasks that machines can perform and by embracing technology into the learning space, we can not only decrease teacher workload but further enhance the learning experience. With tremendous development in VR/AR technology, things we could not have imagined doing like going on a field trip on the other side of the world or being transported back in time is now possible with a click of a button. Furthermore, AI and Machine Learning

ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: FIGHTING COMMON THREATS BY ENHANCING SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS



Ali Fallahi
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On 23 September 2016, and during the 71st UN General Assembly (UNGA), an event titled 'Regionalism and the 2030 Agenda,' took place at UN Headquarters in New York, US. High-level officials of the UN and Member States discussed regional cooperation and initiatives to support country efforts in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognize the importance of regional action in addressing trade, food and energy security, climate change, connectivity and the outbreak of health epidemics. Yet, implementing sustainable development goals remains the biggest challenge for developing countries.

The SDGs are expected to bring profound transformation in sustainable development. To deliver on them effectively will require vast mobilization of resources with associated funding, organization and allocation, and the strengthening and

building of genuine partnerships (Goal 17) and institutional capacities.

The SDGs have international acceptability and most of the countries in the world are committed to implementing the SDGs by 2030, but the financing gap (at around US\$2.5 trillion annually) to deliver SDGs goals for the world is not sufficient.

Having said that, the SDGs cannot be achieved merely through national action; in certain areas regional/sub-regional cooperation is needed to fight the common threats. Some examples such as the spread of communicable diseases across borders, cyber-attacks, drug/human trafficking, global warming, environmental pollution and terrorism know no frontier and national borders, and thus, require a collective measure and coordinated approach. So, the question is: How effective are governments in controlling their spread?

Undoubtedly, tackling cross-border challenges given the budget constraints faced by governments is cumbersome for the countries, and it necessitates a concerted effort with many developing countries seriously deficient in this respect. Accordingly, targeting the common threats needs to be placed as the top priority of governments in implementing SDGs.

Learning from sub-regional experiences and modalities such as knowledge-sharing platforms, capacity building, south-south cooperation, and triangular or trilateral cooperation, could bring forward complementarity and enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in development cooperation. Even with the best practices emanating from the sub-region, there are issues and challenges that deserve attention, including how to improve effectiveness in development cooperation, increase transparency and data availability, address the bias towards economic sector – all of which were compounded by a lack of institutionalized sub-regional cooperation mechanisms.

As per IsDB's 10 -Year Strategic Framework and P5P, the Bank aims to achieve a transition from its primary role as a 'provider' to a 'connector' and 'catalyst' of regional cooperation and economic

integration among MCs, enabling their economies to benefit from each other's strengths and potentials and to open new doors for wealth creation and poverty reduction.

Henceforth, IsDB needs to design and tailor a pre-emptive regional initiative for each region/sub-region especially when it relates to the common threats. Prescribing one medicine for one common pain through partnership or in other words, vaccinating a sub-region against a common threat might be less expensive for the MCs rather than undergoing the pain or the threat individually.

However, tackling this common threat requires a regional institutional framework or a sub-regional cooperation regime to service our member States, to ensure that we are "All for one and one for all."

I would like to conclude that deepening sub-regional cooperation by fighting common threats facing the member countries would not only be a burden sharing and cost saving but also a win-win game.

Way Forward :

- 1) Achieving a level of resilience in its development that would cushion the sub-region from the impact of external shocks and hasten recovery.
- 2) Sharing and facilitating the exchange of constructive experiences and peer learning through regional multi-stakeholder in mainstreaming new policy approaches to sustainable development goals, This objective can be achieved through IsDB initiative so-called "Reverse- Linkage".
- 3) Assessment of regional trends with supportive analysis of issues and progress,
- 4) Offering Regional modalities and tools for SDG prioritization;
- 5) Integrated Regional Development Planning (IRDP) as a useful tool for sustainable development;
- 6) Generating Big Data and strengthening countries' data and statistical capacities for evidence-based policy- making;
- 7) Forming a "Regional Finance Facility" to achieve the SDGs. The concept of the Facility was mainly proposed for the Pacific Area for mobilization on a voluntary basis of around 10-20 percent of the regional long-term savings for long-term investment in the region.



systems are able to pickup patterns and personalise the learning experience which a teacher of 20-30 students cannot possibly do.

An eye-opening fact from the World Economic Forum states that 65% of children entering primary school today will ultimately end up working in completely new job types that don't yet exist. The American writer Alvin Toffler captures this very well when he says: "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

Bringing technology into classrooms and freeing up the time of our teachers to be the passionate leaders and education advocates is imperative to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education is available to all.



Events

PICTURES FROM THE EVENT ON “DEVELOPING NATIONAL ECOSYSTEMS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”



Launching of the Publication “Developing National Ecosystems for South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Achieve Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”



Signing of the Joint Statement of Intent with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation and South Centre on Implementing the BAPA+40 Recommendations



Signing Ceremony of the ONE WASH Fund and Sukuk initiative – Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Cholera and Other Diarrheal Diseases Eradication – by IsDB and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent



Partners of the Tadamon Program Launched by the IsDB, ISFD and UNDP on the Sidelines of the UN General Assembly



President's Address During the Launching Event of the Joint Program of the IsDB, ISFD and UNDP called “Tadamon” for the capacity development of Civil Society Organizations



Signing of the Joint Plan of Action between IsDB President, Dr. Bandar Hajjar and UNDP Administrator, Mr. Achim Steiner



Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IsDB and UNICEF

HLPF 2019: THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ISDB SPECIAL ENVOY IN THE HLPF AT THE UN.. THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (GPEDC) AND AFRICA PEER REVIEWING MECHANISM (APRM).

